

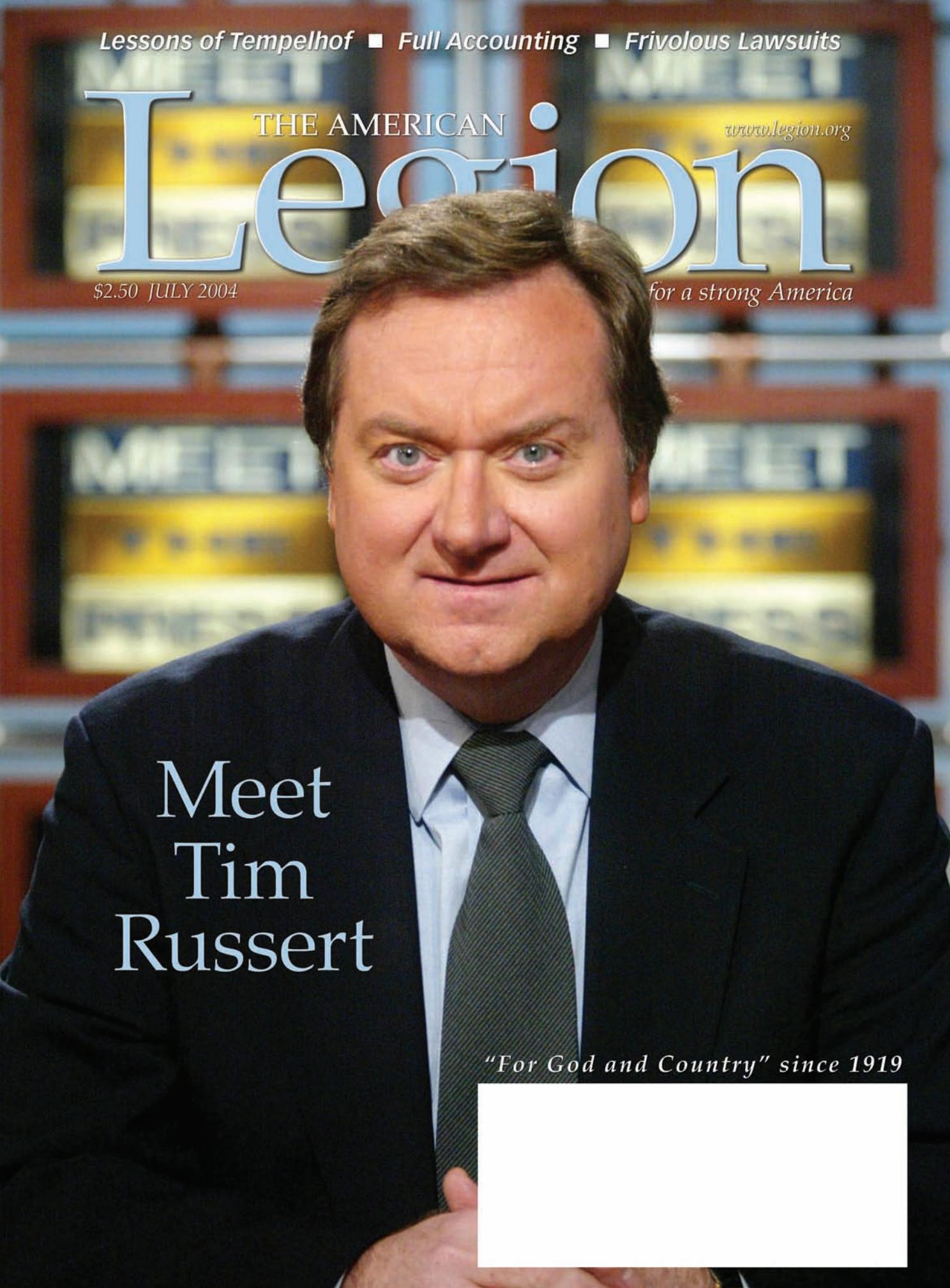
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For God and Country

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The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2.7 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 15,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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National Commander **John A. Brieden III**

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EDITORIAL

Editor **John Raughter**

Managing Editor **Jeff Stoffer**

Contributing Editor **Steve Brooks**

Assistant Editor **James V. Carroll**

Assistant Editor **Matt Grills**

Assistant Editor **Elissa Kaupisch**

Editorial Administrator **Patricia Marschand**

General Administrator **Brandy Ballenger**

General Administrator **Robin Bowman**

GRAPHICS/PRODUCTION

Graphics/Production Director **Jon Reynolds**

Art Director **Holly K. Soria**

Designer **Douglas Rollison**

Designer **King Doxsee**

ADVERTISING

Advertising Director **Diane Andretti**

Advertising Assistant **Sara Palmer**

Advertising Assistant **Leslie Hankins**

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Publisher's Representatives

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Email: adinfo.ame@foxrep.com

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A do-it-yourself memorial

The cover of the May issue says, "A Grateful Nation Remembers." Since World War II ended, we have fought a war in Korea, for which there has long been a memorial, and another war in Vietnam, for which there also is an elaborate memorial. There would still be no memorial for the largest war in history if veterans had not pushed for it, organized the funding and put up most of the money themselves. The World War II Memorial is not the result of a "grateful nation" but of a do-it-yourself movement on the part of the few surviving veterans of that war.

Powerful voice

Just when I was pondering the excellence of the articles in your April issue, the May issue arrived with the stirring commentary by Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga. ("Deficit of Decency"). Wow. We need more lawmakers and ordinary citizens to publicly speak for higher moral standards. Miller will leave a vast emptiness in the Senate when he retires. I hope his voice will continue to be heard other places.

— George McClellan, San Gabriel, Calif.

Slap in the face

We agree with Sen. Zell Miller and are more than happy to provide the rail, tar and feathers for Kid Rock's ride out of the country. What he and others have done to our American flag is a slap in the face to every military person past and present. If they think this is entertainment, they should take it to the front lines in Iraq and see how long they stay onstage.

— Janice & Larry O'Brien, Indianapolis

No offense intended

Sen. Zell Miller's disdain for Kid Rock is off target. I agree the entertainer's choice of an American flag as a shirt at the Super Bowl was disrespectful, but I seriously doubt he intended it to be so. Kid Rock visited our troops in Kuwait and Iraq last summer, one of the few big names to risk the trip. The young troops loved him. While he's no Bob Hope, he is a patriotic American.

— Patrick J. Sullivan, via e-mail



— Ralph Givens, Cedaredge, Colo.

Don't force goodness

In the May article "America's Saving Grace," Dinesh D'Souza writes, "The highest form of patriotism is based on loving your country because it is good." Absolutely true. But your country ceases to be good the moment it attempts to shove its brand of "morally superior" goodness down the throats of others, even if it's for their own good.

— Ted Corin, Austin, Texas

Virtue from within

Dinesh D'Souza misses the point. No government — theocracy, dictatorship, or democracy — can legislate or impose the virtuous society. In the same issue, Sen. Zell Miller presumes

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS

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that Congress can legislate the virtuous society; he ought to know better. Virtue in a society only comes from the individuals who make it up. If enough members of a society are virtuous, then the society itself will be seen as virtuous. That is why the U.S. Constitution does not seek to legislate virtue; its purpose is solely to provide a framework for government and to protect the liberties of the people. We need to keep it that way.

— Wesley Hackett, Saranac, Mich.

Sell freedom

Dinesh D'Souza makes good points, but he spends an inordinate portion of the article explaining the thoughts of radical Muslim Sayyid Qutb. Qutb's knowledge of American life is mostly from university academia, media and Hollywood. These are all unreal views of life in America. The sad thing is, his radical rationale is propagated to the average Muslim by the mullahs in mosques. The average Muslim has no other source of knowledge than from these unsophisticated mullahs and from Arab television. The al-Jazeera TV news is not objective.

D'Souza calls for an intellectual response. I'm not sure what that means, but we need to sell the advantages of freedom. We have Voice of America, but it does not focus on the Arab world and is underfunded. It should be on the air alongside Arab TV.

Donald Rumsfeld has on his office desk a night photo of the Korean peninsula taken from space. It shows South Korea covered with lights and North Korea with one bright area: the capital city of Pyongyang. This could be posted all over Iraq with the title "Freedom or Tyranny. You Choose."

— Alex Palos, Templeton, Calif.

Grand delusion

I am befuddled by Dinesh D'Souza's assertion that our military response against terrorism has been "reasonably effective." Far from it. We will certainly win our battles in Iraq. But will we win the hearts and minds of

IMPORTANT SAFETY AND DOSING INFORMATION

LEVITRA is a prescription medicine that is used to treat erectile dysfunction (ED). Men taking nitrate drugs, often used to control chest pain (also known as angina), should not take LEVITRA. Men who use alpha blockers, sometimes prescribed for high blood pressure or prostate problems, also should not take LEVITRA. Such combinations could cause blood pressure to drop to an unsafe level. You should not take LEVITRA if your doctor determines that sexual activity poses a health risk for you. Men who experience an erection for more than four hours should seek immediate medical attention. LEVITRA does not protect against sexually transmitted diseases. The starting dose of LEVITRA is 10 mg taken no more than once per day. Your doctor will decide the dose that is right for you. In patients taking certain medications such as ritonavir, indinavir, ketoconazole, itraconazole, and erythromycin, lower doses of LEVITRA are recommended, and time between doses of LEVITRA may need to be extended. In clinical trials, the most commonly reported side effects were headache, flushing, and stuffy or runny nose. LEVITRA is available in 2.5-mg, 5-mg, 10-mg, and 20-mg tablets.

SEE NEXT PAGE FOR ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT PATIENT INFORMATION.



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Read the Patient Information about LEVITRA before you start taking it and again each time you get a refill. There may be new information. You may also find it helpful to share this information with your partner. This leaflet does not take the place of talking with your doctor. You and your doctor should talk about LEVITRA when you start taking it and at regular checkups. If you do not understand the information, or have questions, talk with your doctor or pharmacist.

WHAT IMPORTANT INFORMATION SHOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT LEVITRA?

LEVITRA can cause your blood pressure to drop suddenly to an unsafe level if it is taken with certain other medicines. With a sudden drop in blood pressure, you could get dizzy, faint, or have a heart attack or stroke.

Do not take LEVITRA if you:

- take any medicines called "nitrates."
- use recreational drugs called "poppers" like amyl nitrate and butyl nitrate.
- take medicines called alpha-blockers.

(See "Who Should Not Take LEVITRA?")

Tell all your healthcare providers that you take LEVITRA. If you need emergency medical care for a heart problem, it will be important for your healthcare provider to know when you last took LEVITRA.

WHAT IS LEVITRA?

LEVITRA is a prescription medicine taken by mouth for the treatment of erectile dysfunction (ED) in men.

ED is a condition where the penis does not harden and expand when a man is sexually excited, or when he cannot keep an erection. A man who has trouble getting or keeping an erection should see his doctor for help if the condition bothers him. LEVITRA may help a man with ED get and keep an erection when he is sexually excited.

LEVITRA does not:

- cure ED
- increase a man's sexual desire
- protect a man or his partner from sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV. Speak to your doctor about ways to guard against sexually transmitted diseases.
- serve as a male form of birth control

LEVITRA is only for men with ED. LEVITRA is not for women or children. LEVITRA must be used only under a doctor's care.

HOW DOES LEVITRA WORK?

When a man is sexually stimulated, his body's normal physical response is to increase blood flow to his penis. This results in an erection. LEVITRA helps increase blood flow to the penis and may help men with ED get and keep an erection satisfactory for sexual activity. Once a man has completed sexual activity, blood flow to his penis decreases, and his erection goes away.

WHO CAN TAKE LEVITRA?

Talk to your doctor to decide if LEVITRA is right for you.

LEVITRA has been shown to be effective in men over the age of 18 years who have erectile dysfunction, including men with diabetes or who have undergone prostatectomy.

WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE LEVITRA?

Do not take LEVITRA if you:

- take any medicines called "nitrates" (See "What important information should you know about LEVITRA?"). Nitrates are commonly used to treat angina. Angina is a symptom of heart disease and can cause pain in your chest, jaw, or down your arm. Medicines called nitrates include nitroglycerin that is found in tablets, sprays, ointments, pastes, or patches. Nitrates can also be found in other medicines such as isosorbide dinitrate or isosorbide mononitrate. Some recreational drugs called "poppers" also contain nitrates, such as amyl nitrate and butyl nitrate. Do not use LEVITRA if you are using these drugs. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure if any of your medicines are nitrates.

- take medicines called "alpha-blockers." Alpha-blockers are sometimes prescribed for prostate problems or high blood pressure. If LEVITRA is taken with alpha-blockers, your blood pressure could suddenly drop to an unsafe level. You could get dizzy and faint.

- you have been told by your healthcare provider to not have sexual activity because of health problems. Sexual activity can put an extra strain on your heart, especially if your heart is already weak from a heart attack or heart disease.

- are allergic to LEVITRA or any of its ingredients. The active ingredient in LEVITRA is called vardenafil. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DISCUSS WITH YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING LEVITRA?

Before taking LEVITRA, tell your doctor about all your medical problems, including if you:

- have heart problems such as angina, heart failure, irregular heartbeats, or have had a heart attack. Ask your doctor if it is safe for you to have sexual activity.
- have low blood pressure or have high blood pressure that is not controlled
- have had a stroke
- or any family members have a rare heart condition known as prolongation of the QT interval (long QT syndrome)
- have liver problems
- have kidney problems and require dialysis
- have retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic (runs in families) eye disease
- have stomach ulcers
- have a bleeding problem
- have a deformed penis shape or Peyronie's disease
- have had an erection that lasted more than 4 hours
- have blood cell problems such as sickle cell anemia, multiple myeloma, or leukemia

CAN OTHER MEDICATIONS AFFECT LEVITRA?

Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take including prescription and non-prescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. LEVITRA and other medicines may affect each other. Always check with your doctor before starting or stopping any medicines. Especially tell your doctor if you take any of the following:

- medicines called nitrates (See "What important information should you know about LEVITRA?")
- medicines called alpha-blockers. These include Hytrin® (terazosin HCl), Flomax® (tamsulosin HCl), Cardura® (doxazosin mesylate), Minipress® (prazosin HCl) or Uroxatral® (alfuzosin HCl).
- medicines that treat abnormal heartbeat. These include quinidine, procainamide, amiodarone and sotalol.
- ritonavir (Norvir®) or indinavir sulfate (Crixivan®)
- ketoconazole or itraconazole (such as Nizoral® or Sporanox®)
- erythromycin
- other medicines or treatments for ED

HOW SHOULD YOU TAKE LEVITRA?

Take LEVITRA exactly as your doctor prescribes. LEVITRA comes in different doses (2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg, and 20 mg). For most men, the recommended starting dose is 10 mg. **Take LEVITRA no more than once a day.** Doses should be taken at least 24 hours apart. Some men can only take a low dose of LEVITRA because of medical conditions or medicines they take. Your doctor will prescribe the dose that is right for you.

- If you are older than 65 or have liver problems, your doctor may start you on a lower dose of LEVITRA.
- If you are taking certain other medicines your doctor may prescribe a lower starting dose and limit you to one dose of LEVITRA in a 72-hour (3 days) period.

Take 1 LEVITRA tablet about 1 hour (60 minutes) before sexual activity. Some form of sexual stimulation is needed for an erection to happen with LEVITRA. LEVITRA may be taken with or without meals.

Do not change your dose of LEVITRA without talking to your doctor. Your doctor may lower your dose or raise your dose, depending on how your body reacts to LEVITRA.

If you take too much LEVITRA, call your doctor or emergency room right away.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF LEVITRA?

The most common side effects with LEVITRA are headache, flushing, stuffy or runny nose, indigestion, upset stomach, or dizziness. These side effects usually go away after a few hours. Call your doctor if you get a side effect that bothers you or one that will not go away.

LEVITRA may uncommonly cause:

- an erection that won't go away (priapism). If you get an erection that lasts more than 4 hours, get medical help right away. Priapism must be treated as soon as possible or lasting damage can happen to your penis including the inability to have erections.
- vision changes, such as seeing a blue tinge to objects or having difficulty telling the difference between the colors blue and green. These are not all the side effects of LEVITRA. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW SHOULD LEVITRA BE STORED?

• Store LEVITRA at room temperature between 59° and 86° F (15° to 30° C).

• Keep LEVITRA and all medicines out of the reach of children.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT LEVITRA.

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions other than those described in patient information leaflets. Do not use LEVITRA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give LEVITRA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This leaflet summarizes the most important information about LEVITRA. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about LEVITRA that is written for health professionals. For more information you can also visit www.LEVITRA.com, or call 1-866-LEVITRA.

WHAT ARE THE INGREDIENTS OF LEVITRA?

Active Ingredient: vardenafil hydrochloride

Inactive Ingredients: microcrystalline cellulose, crospovidone, colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, titanium dioxide, yellow ferric oxide, and red ferric oxide.

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Iraqis and others of the Moslem faith? No. We are only helping the jihadists recruit more suicide bombers. Can we strengthen our intellectual response if we continue on our path of pre-emptive military strikes fueled by a grand delusion that it is our destiny to confer freedom on all those who inhabit this planet? Indeed, no.

— C. Alex Alexander, Odenton, Md.

Few converts

In the May table of contents, the article "America's Saving Grace" is previewed, "To defeat terrorism, the United States must prove its society morally superior to Islamic fundamentalism." That's hard to do, considering the exposé of the abuse of Iraqi prisoners by their American guards. As the article points out, we certainly are making few converts to American ideology.

— Bill Woll, Venice, Fla.

True virtue

Thank you for the article suggesting how to counter the Islamist criticism of America. It clarified my thinking on the clash between freedom and religious absolutism. Indeed, virtue freely chosen is more powerful than virtue coerced by the state. I would only add one thought: how do you define virtue? To me, it is not virtuous for government to take from the poor to give to the rich. Nor is it virtuous to pollute the environment, sell the public interest for campaign contributions or consign entire classes of people to second-class citizenship or worse.

— Sue Pastin, Chicago

Bang for the buck

I commend *The American Legion Magazine* for publishing the article by Vice Adm. Jim Hull and Joe DiRenzo III ("The Power to Protect," May). They highlight the vital importance and multi-mission capability of our smallest armed force, in the wake of Sept. 11. Simply put, American taxpay- ers are getting a lot of bang for their buck with the Coast Guard, and that has been the case since the service's founding in 1790.

In times of war or peace, at

home or in foreign waters, the Coast Guard has faithfully responded as a vital element of national defense. From the beaches of Normandy to the sands of Iwo Jima, from the frozen wastelands of the Aleutians and Greenland to the coasts of Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, the U.S. Coast Guard has answered the call. The new reality of domestic terrorism only underscores the increasingly critical role of this highly trained and professional seagoing service.

— Jon B. Hittle, Damascus, Md.

Enforce the law

U.S. Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif., claims granting guest-worker status to untold millions of illegal aliens is not amnesty (Big Issues, May). As a former immigration inspector with the old INS, I know the proposal of still another guest-worker program is another insult and low blow to U.S. citizens and workers. Past programs and amnesties have been rife with fraud, and no meaningful attempts of enforcement were made. What has changed to make us believe our government would now magically decide to enforce the law? Unless aliens or unscrupulous employers face even minimal punishment, the idea is idiotic and an abuse of our national sovereignty.

— Ernest Wade, Snellville, Ga.

First victim of war

Alan W. Dowd's article "Tied Down" (May) makes an excellent case for why the International Criminal Court is a threat to our national sovereignty, an argument that should be applied to the United Nations in general. In his article, however, Dowd perpetuates a common misconception used to justify the ICC and similar U.N.-sponsored organizations, such as the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). The intended role of the ICTY, also known as the Hague Tribunal, is to justify the concept of the ICC. To justify its existence, the ICTY depends on acceptance of shocking, intentionally inflated claims, such as the one Dowd

used: "Slobodan Milosevic erased the lives of 250,000 Bosnian Muslims and Croat Catholics in a war of aggression," a claim the ICTY has been unable to prove after more than three years of the prosecution's case.

It is not my intent to defend Milosevic but rather to show how easily public opinion can be manipulated to support something that ultimately is not in our best interest. The figure of 250,000 came from the Bosnian Muslim government of Alija Itzebegovic. The media ran with it without verifying its authenticity. The latest statistic of victims on all sides, according to a January 2002 BBC report, is 40,000. Furthermore, both the former foreign-service officer at the Yugoslav desk in Washington, George Kenney, and David Binder of *The New York Times*, an expert on Balkan affairs, estimate between 40,000 and 60,000 were killed. However, 250,000 deaths sell more copy than 40,000.

Truth is always the first victim of war; such is the case regarding U.S. media reports on the Balkans.

— George Jatras, Camp Hill, Pa.

Media misgivings

I appreciate Jeff Stoffer's article "More Powerful Than Any Words" (May). Most photojournalists do a fine job and many do risk their lives to record history as it is made. However, I do have to add that I have never trusted those who reported on camera to all of America and the world that the Army lost the Tet Offensive in 1968. That type of "yellow journalism," besides being an outright lie, should never be viewed as anything other than aid to the enemy. Yet none dare call it treason. It is not without reason that American commanders have misgivings about allowing media complete freedom.

— Glenn Perlman, Houston

No soldier

In the 33 years since I was a combatant, I have read many articles indistinguishable from this one by Jeff Stoffer, in that they all were written by journal-

ists extolling the virtues of ... guess who? Journalists. Any lack of objectivity here?

Imagine yourself a teen-ager on the other side of the world fighting for your country's interests, offering up your life in the bargain. At the last minute, your team gets a combat photographer who will accompany you into the field and share your experience. As you consider this stranger among you, you can't help but wonder what effect his presence will have on your mission. He has no weapon, so he cannot or will not help in any fighting. If he is wounded, even because of his own foolishness, you and your brothers will be expected to fight for him, administer first aid to him and probably carry him to where he can be evacuated — all at great risk to you and the guys you care most about. If, however, you or one of your buddies falls, will he help you? Most likely, he will want to take your picture with the expectation that the resulting photo will win him worldwide acclaim and maybe even a Pulitzer.

Ever wonder why these articles, without fail, always use the same phrase about the affection and respect these men always seem to get from the troops? I do.

— Theodore Knapp, Grangeville, Idaho

Lost and found

In the April issue, you published an article seeking survivors of Air Force Capt. Herman Ritchie (Legion News, April). Thanks to a wondrous turn of events, our aunt connected me and my siblings with The American Legion, which arranged for us to collect our father's recently discovered citations. We were treated to a special reception with National Commander John Brieden, where we learned just what The American Legion is about. Knowing the loss of our father was, and still is, appreciated by so many sincere people means more than words can say. Through this discovery, and the article, we have met several people who knew our dad — some when he was a boy, some when he served. Thank you.

— Terry Eilbacher, Bricktown, N.J.

CARES: Born of flawed funding

ALegionnaire in a city destined to receive a brand-new medical center as part of the nation's sweeping \$6.1 billion VA health-care overhaul stood and asked VA Secretary Anthony J. Principi a simple question: "Do you support mandatory funding for VA health care, and if not, why not?" Interestingly, the answer was not so simple. And that is a good thing.

"I certainly think we need to look at mandatory funding for veterans health care," Principi responded from the podium after announcing outside a suburban Las Vegas VA clinic his final decision on CARES – the massive Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services initiative. "We really need to sit down and analyze what the impact would be not this year or next year, but in the out years, look at different scenarios so we are sure mandatory funding is the right approach, how the formula should be constructed, and what is best for our nation's veterans."

The secretary's expressed willingness to consider it comes in a year of momentum for mandatory funding. A vast majority of veterans organizations support it. A powerful contingent in Congress supports it. Veterans' health care is too important to let sway in the winds of discretionary spending.

Reformers agree VA health care should receive appropriations:

- On a basis that attaches actual dollars to actual patients, indexed annually for inflation.
- With an understanding that veterans receiving care at VA facilities should disclose and use any private health insurance they have and that Priority Group 8 veterans, those most likely to have insurance, are invited back into the system after last year's suspension.
- Freeing VA to bill Medicare for reimbursement, the norm for nearly all other U.S. health-care institutions, including those in the federally funded Indian Health Service.

Growing interest in mandatory funding may stem from a realization that if VA health care had been funded on a mandatory basis all along, the department's galaxy of more than 1,200 hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and domiciliaries might not have fallen into such a state that the cost of their unused buildings reached \$1 million a day. That revelation in 1999 triggered CARES and illuminated how VA had sacrificed facilities management to build a network of outpatient clinics during the 1990s. Both were needed, obviously, but funding was only made available for the clinics. In some communities, capital-improvement reserves were tapped to cover patient care. And so today we need the multibillion-dollar fix. History shows that no matter how badly we need funds, we never know what to expect when allocations are discretionary and cyclical.

That is why we must not relent in the battle to make VA health-care funding mandatory. We need to remind those in power that when our military orders came, there was nothing discretionary about them. They were mandatory. We should expect nothing less for the health-care system built by a free America in gratitude to those who made them so.



National Commander
John Brieden
Chase Studios

memoranda

THE FULL CARES DECISION

with details about affected facilities is available at www.va.gov.

INITIAL RESPONSE

to the May 7 CARES decision can be found at www.legion.org under the "Press Releases" button. Also visit the Legion's Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/legion/issues/bills/> for updates on VA health-care legislation.

AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

is set for July 23-31 in Washington. For more information on the national youth leadership program, visit www.legion.org/boysnation/2004/

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP WORKSHOP

is set for July 23-25 at National Headquarters in Indianapolis. Call **(317) 630-1321**.

ASK U.S. PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

questions most important to veterans through Military & Veterans Impact 2004, a nationwide voter-awareness campaign coordinated by The American Legion. Included is an online survey – found at www.impact04.legion.org – for veterans and military personnel to select questions they want President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry to answer. The top 10 questions will be advanced to their campaign offices at the end of this month. Responses will be posted on the Impact '04 Web site in August.



YOU MANAGE YOUR BLOOD SUGAR. WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HELP PROTECT YOUR HEART?

If you have diabetes, you probably think if you're managing your blood sugar, you're managing all your health risks. Unfortunately, managing your blood sugar may not be enough to help protect your heart. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) states that middle-aged people with type 2 diabetes have the same high risk of having a heart attack as people without diabetes who already have had a heart attack.

The Heart Protection Study by Oxford University, funded in part by Merck, researched ZOCOR. ZOCOR is the first and only cholesterol medication proven to significantly reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke in people with diabetes. Regardless of cholesterol level.

Before the Heart Protection Study was complete, ZOCOR was a time-tested, cholesterol-lowering medication, with over 160 million prescriptions filled in the past 11 years.

If you have diabetes, ask your doctor how ZOCOR, along with a healthy diet, can help protect you. Get information about the Heart Protection Study and ZOCOR at zocor.com or call 1-800-MERCK-75.

INFORMATION
ABOUT THE
HEART
PROTECTION
STUDY
AND ZOCOR®
(SIMVASTATIN)

ZOCOR®
(SIMVASTATIN)

Important considerations: ZOCOR is a prescription medicine and isn't right for everyone, including women who are nursing or pregnant or who may become pregnant, anyone with liver problems, and people who are allergic to any ingredients of ZOCOR. Unexplained muscle pain or weakness could be a sign of a rare but serious side effect and should be reported to your doctor right away. Your doctor may do blood tests before and during treatment with ZOCOR to check for liver problems. To avoid serious side effects, discuss with your doctor medicine or food you should avoid while on ZOCOR.

YOUR RESULTS MAY VARY.

**PLEASE READ THE MORE DETAILED INFORMATION
ABOUT ZOCOR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THIS AD.**

ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF ZOCOR IS RIGHT FOR YOU.



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To find out if you qualify, call 1-800-MERCK-75.

ZOCOR. It's your future. Be there.



PLEASE READ THIS SUMMARY CAREFULLY, THEN ASK YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT ZOCOR.
NO ADVERTISEMENT CAN PROVIDE ALL THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE A DRUG. THIS ADVERTISEMENT DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF CAREFUL DISCUSSIONS WITH YOUR DOCTOR. ONLY YOUR DOCTOR HAS THE TRAINING TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS OF A PRESCRIPTION DRUG FOR YOU.

USES OF ZOCOR

ZOCOR is a prescription drug that is indicated as an addition to diet for many patients with high cholesterol. For patients at high risk of coronary heart disease (CHD) because of existing heart disease, diabetes, vascular disease, or history of stroke, ZOCOR is indicated along with diet to reduce the risk of death by reducing coronary death; reduce the risk of heart attack and stroke; and reduce the need for revascularization procedures.

WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED

Some people should not take ZOCOR. Discuss this with your doctor.

ZOCOR should not be used by patients who are allergic to any of its ingredients. In addition to the active ingredient simvastatin, each tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: cellulose, lactose, magnesium stearate, iron oxides, talc, titanium dioxide, and starch. Butylated hydroxyanisole is added as a preservative.

Patients with liver problems: ZOCOR should not be used by patients with active liver disease or repeated blood test results indicating possible liver problems. (See WARNINGS.)

Women who are or may become pregnant: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus. **Women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely that they will become pregnant.** If a woman does become pregnant while on ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once.

Women who are breast-feeding should not take ZOCOR.

WARNINGS

Muscle: Tell your doctor right away if you experience any unexplained muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness at any time during treatment with ZOCOR so your doctor can decide if ZOCOR should be stopped. Some patients may have muscle pain or weakness while taking ZOCOR. Rarely, this can include muscle breakdown resulting in kidney damage. The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients taking certain other drugs along with ZOCOR:

- Cyclosporine, itraconazole, ketoconazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin, HIV protease inhibitors, the antidepressant nefazodone, or large quantities of grapefruit juice (>1 quart daily), particularly with higher doses of ZOCOR.
- Gemfibrozil particularly with higher doses of ZOCOR.
- Other lipid lowering drugs (other fibrates or ≥1 g/day of niacin) that can cause myopathy when given alone.
- Amiodarone or verapamil with higher doses of ZOCOR.

The risk of muscle breakdown is greater at higher doses of simvastatin.

Because the risk of muscle side effects is greater when ZOCOR is used with the products listed above, the combined use of these products should be avoided unless your doctor determines the benefits are likely to outweigh the increased risks.

The dose of ZOCOR should not exceed 10 mg daily in patients receiving gemfibrozil. The combined use of ZOCOR and gemfibrozil should be avoided, unless your doctor determines that the benefits outweigh the increased risks of muscle problems. Caution should be used when using ZOCOR with other fibrates or niacin because these can cause muscle problems when taken alone.

No more than 10 mg/day of ZOCOR should be taken with cyclosporine.

The combined use of verapamil or amiodarone with doses above ZOCOR 20 mg should be avoided unless your doctor determines the benefits outweigh the increased risk of muscle breakdown.

Your doctor should also carefully monitor for any muscle pain, tenderness, or weakness, particularly during the initial months of therapy and if the dose of either drug is increased. Your doctor also may monitor the level of certain muscle enzymes in your body, but there is no assurance that such monitoring will prevent the occurrence of severe muscle disease.

The risk of muscle breakdown is greater in patients with kidney problems or diabetes.

If you have conditions that can increase your risk of muscle breakdown, which in turn can cause kidney damage, your doctor should temporarily withhold or stop ZOCOR. Also, since there are no known adverse consequences of briefly stopping therapy with ZOCOR, treatment should be stopped a few days before elective major surgery and when any major acute medical or surgical condition occurs. Discuss this with your doctor, who can explain these conditions to you.

Liver: About 1% of patients who took ZOCOR in clinical trials developed elevated levels of some liver enzymes. Patients who had these increases usually had no symptoms. Elevated liver enzymes usually returned to normal levels when therapy with ZOCOR was stopped.

In the ZOCOR Survival Study, the number of patients with more than 1 liver enzyme level elevation to greater than 3 times the normal upper limit was no different between the ZOCOR and placebo groups. Only 8 patients on ZOCOR and 5 on placebo discontinued therapy due to elevated liver enzyme levels. Patients were started on 20 mg of ZOCOR, and one third had their dose raised to 40 mg.

Your doctor should perform routine blood tests to check these enzymes before you start treatment with ZOCOR and thereafter when clinically indicated. Patients titrated to the 80-mg dose should receive an additional test at 3 months and periodically thereafter (eg, semiannually) for the first year of treatment. If your enzyme levels increase, your doctor should order more frequent tests. If your liver enzyme levels remain unusually high, your doctor should discontinue your medication.

Tell your doctor about any liver disease you may have had in the past and about how much alcohol you consume. ZOCOR should be used with caution in patients who consume large amounts of alcohol.

PRECAUTIONS

Drug Interactions: Because of possible serious drug interactions, it is important to tell your doctor what other drugs you are taking, including those obtained without a prescription. You should also tell other doctors

who are prescribing a new medicine for you that you are taking ZOCOR® (simvastatin). ZOCOR can interact with the following:

- Itraconazole
- Ketoconazole
- Erythromycin
- Clarithromycin
- HIV protease inhibitors
- Nefazodone
- Cyclosporine
- Large quantities of grapefruit juice (>1 quart daily)

The risk of myopathy is also increased by gemfibrozil and to a lesser extent other fibrates and niacin (nicotinic acid) (≥1 g/day).

The risk of muscle breakdown is increased with other drugs:

- Amiodarone
- Verapamil

Some patients taking lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR and coumarin anticoagulants (a type of blood thinner) have experienced bleeding and/or increased blood clotting time. Patients taking these medicines should have their blood tested before starting therapy with ZOCOR and should continue to be monitored.

Central Nervous System Toxicity; Cancer, Mutations, Impairment of Fertility: Like most prescription drugs, ZOCOR was required to be tested on animals before it was marketed for human use. Often these tests were designed to achieve higher drug concentrations than humans achieve at recommended dosing. In some tests, the animals had damage to the nerves in the central nervous system. In studies of mice with high doses of ZOCOR, the likelihood of certain types of cancerous tumors increased. No evidence of mutations of or damage to genetic material has been seen. In 1 study with ZOCOR, there was decreased fertility in male rats.

Pregnancy: Pregnant women should not take ZOCOR because it may harm the fetus.

Safety in pregnancy has not been established. In studies with lipid-lowering agents similar to ZOCOR, there have been rare reports of birth defects of the skeleton and digestive system. Therefore, women of childbearing age should not take ZOCOR unless it is highly unlikely they will become pregnant. If a woman does become pregnant while taking ZOCOR, she should stop taking the drug and talk to her doctor at once. The active ingredient of ZOCOR did not cause birth defects in rats at 3 times the human dose or in rabbits at 3 times the human dose.

Nursing Mothers: Drugs taken by nursing mothers may be present in their breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, a woman taking ZOCOR should not breast-feed. (See WHEN ZOCOR SHOULD NOT BE USED.)

Pediatric Use: ZOCOR is not recommended for children or patients under 10 years of age.

Geriatric Use: Higher blood levels of active drug were seen in elderly patients (70–78 years of age) compared with younger patients (18–30 years of age) in 1 study. In other studies, the cholesterol-lowering effects of ZOCOR were at least as great in elderly patients as in younger patients, and there were no overall differences in safety between elderly and younger patients over the 20–80 mg/day dosage range. Of the 7 cases of myopathy/rhabdomyolysis among 10,269 patients on ZOCOR in another study, 4 were aged 65 or more (at baseline), 1 of whom was over 75.

SIDE EFFECTS

Most patients tolerate treatment with ZOCOR well; however, like all prescription drugs, ZOCOR can cause side effects, and some of them can be serious. Side effects that do occur are usually mild and short-lived. Only your doctor can weigh the risks versus the benefits of any prescription drug. In clinical studies with ZOCOR, less than 1.5% of patients dropped out of the studies because of side effects. In 2 large, 5-year studies, patients taking ZOCOR experienced similar side effects to those patients taking placebo (sugar pills). Some of the side effects that have been reported with ZOCOR or related drugs are listed below. This list is not complete. Be sure to ask your doctor about side effects before taking ZOCOR and to discuss any side effects that occur.

Digestive System: Constipation, diarrhea, upset stomach, gas, heartburn, stomach pain/cramps, anorexia, loss of appetite, nausea, inflammation of the pancreas, hepatitis, jaundice, fatty changes in the liver, and, rarely, severe liver damage and failure, cirrhosis, and liver cancer.

Muscle, Skeletal: Muscle cramps, aches, pain, and weakness; joint pain; muscle breakdown.

Nervous System: Dizziness, headache, insomnia, tingling, memory loss, damage to nerves causing weakness and/or loss of sensation and/or abnormal sensations, anxiety, depression, tremor, loss of balance, psychic disturbances.

Skin: Rash, itching, hair loss, dryness, nodules, discoloration.

Eye/Senses: Blurred vision, altered taste sensation, progression of cataracts, eye muscle weakness.

Hypersensitivity (Allergic) Reactions: On rare occasions, a wide variety of symptoms have been reported to occur either alone or together in groups (referred as a syndrome) that appeared to be based on allergic-type reactions, which may rarely be fatal. These have included 1 or more of the following: a severe generalized reaction that may include shortness of breath, wheezing, digestive symptoms, and low blood pressure and even shock; an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat with difficulty swallowing or breathing; symptoms mimicking lupus (a disorder in which a person's immune system may attack parts of his or her own body); severe muscle and blood vessel inflammation, sometimes including rash; bruises; various disorders of blood cells (that could result in anemia, infection, or blood clotting problems) or abnormal blood tests; inflamed or painful joints; hives; fatigue and weakness; sensitivity to sunlight; fever, chills; flushing; difficulty breathing; and severe skin disorders that vary from rash to a serious burn-like shedding of skin all over the body, including mucous membranes such as the lining of the mouth.

Other: Loss of sexual desire, breast enlargement, impotence.

Laboratory Tests: Liver function test abnormalities including elevated alkaline phosphatase and bilirubin; thyroid function abnormalities.

NOTE: This summary provides important information about ZOCOR. If you would like more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist to let you read the prescribing information and then discuss it with them.



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Central American trade agreement



SUPPORT

Rep. Kevin Brady
R-Texas

■ A deputy whip in the U.S. House of Representatives, Brady leads congressional supporters of CAFTA.

If we want to compete successfully against China and Europe for new jobs, Congress must pass the Central American Free Trade Agreement with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic.

This will level the playing field for American products competing to sell there. Enhanced trade with these nations means new jobs for America, jobs for workers in every sector from agriculture to textiles and technology.

Central America already is a proven trading partner, buying more U.S. goods than Russia, India and Indonesia combined.

Fifty percent of the goods Central America sells to us were originally produced in the United States. Even better, for every dollar in products Central America sells to the United States, it buys back \$1.36. Compare that positive surplus to our trade deficit with China, which buys back only two cents for every dollar it sells us.

Hundreds of companies employing thousands of Americans are selling their wares to Central Americans despite high tariffs and penalties. Without a new trade agreement, the goods and services these hard-working Americans provide will continue to compete at a disadvantage over products from nations with trade agreements.

Central America is a region long characterized by poverty, civil war and violence. To its credit, in a little more than a decade, Central America has transformed itself, embracing political, economic and labor reforms that a free-trade agreement will help lock in.

Our Central American friends are committing troops and resources to uproot terrorists, a task many of our historical allies refuse to perform. Their commitment to freedom domestically and preservation globally make them exactly the type of nations the United States seeks to do business with and benefits from doing business with.



OPPOSE

Rep. Sherrod Brown
D-Ohio

■ Former Ohio Secretary of State Brown played a key role in Congress to defeat "fast-track" trade negotiating.

This summer, the Bush administration and an enthusiastic Republican congressional leadership are expected to push through legislation to expand the North American Free Trade Agreement to include Central America. If the president is re-elected, the administration likely will add the rest of Latin America to the agreement. When fully implemented, CAFTA would double the size of NAFTA and quadruple the number of low-income workers.

CAFTA nations are not only among the world's poorest countries, they're among its smallest economies. With a \$62 billion combined economic output, they can hardly serve as growth engines for the \$10 trillion U.S. economy. This idea is more about access to cheap labor and exporting American jobs than exporting U.S. goods.

In Ohio, one sixth of manufacturing jobs have disappeared — some to Bangladesh, many to Mexico, and more to China. In the past three years, Ohio lost 260,000 jobs; that's nearly 2,000 jobs every week.

Gregory Mankiw, the president's chief economist, supports exporting jobs, saying, "When a good or service is produced more cheaply abroad, it makes more sense to import it than provide it domestically."

This debate about globalization and outsourcing is about American values. When we send our military abroad, shouldn't they expect to be treated honorably when they return home? Doesn't that mean adequate veterans benefits and the opportunity to find a good-paying job with benefits?

Policies that send U.S. jobs overseas punish those who work hard, pay taxes and support families.

Between 1994 and 2002, an estimated 525,094 U.S. workers were certified as having lost their jobs to NAFTA, according to the Department of Labor.

The flawed NAFTA model should be abandoned, not embraced. From shipping U.S. jobs overseas to exploiting poorer nations, CAFTA simply offers more of the same.

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

The Honorable (name), U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 • Phone: (202) 224-3121

The Honorable (name), House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515 • Phone: (202) 225-3121

Big Russ & Me

Tim Russert, 54, an Irish-American product of a Buffalo, N.Y., Jesuit school, is responsible for more Americans missing Sunday morning worship services than Madalyn Murray O'Hair. Believers who can't attend a Saturday-evening service might want to program their VCRs, because, as Russert says each week, "If it's Sunday, it's 'Meet the Press.'"

Russert has been the show's moderator since 1991. He is also host of "The

Tim Russert Show" on CNBC and is senior vice president and Washington bureau chief of NBC News. After the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, Russert didn't hesitate to don a red-white-and-blue ribbon or grill a Taliban spokesman on the air because, as he puts it, "Yes, I am a journalist, but first I am an American citizen." While that stance drew the ire of *The Washington Post*, it came as no surprise to his father, Timothy "Big Russ" Russert.

A World War II veteran and past commander of South Buffalo American Legion Post 721, Big Russ drove a garbage truck and often worked a second job to support his family. The work ethic was passed to his son, who

obtained a law degree and worked as an aide to the late Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., and former Gov. Mario Cuomo before becoming one of the highest-paid journalists in America. The younger Russert chronicles the special relationship he shares with his father in his new book, "Big Russ & Me, Father and Son: Lessons of Life" (Miramax).

Russert recently discussed his career and the book with *The American Legion Magazine*.

The American Legion Magazine: *Why did you write the book?*

Tim Russert: I think it's so important that the America I know is the same America that my dad introduced me to and taught me about. I have a sense now that the older I get, the smarter my father gets and all the lessons that he tried to teach me, I now find myself trying to teach my own son (those lessons). And they are so ingrained in my dad's life and the way he conducted himself in an honorable and decent way that I wanted to share those with the country so that people would recognize that what really is the essence and core of America are

people like Big Russ: guys who left school, went and fought World War II, came home and raised a family. He had two full-time jobs and never complained. I hope what comes from this book is a recognition by this generation of what heroes our fathers and grandfathers were. I also hope it starts a conversation between fathers and sons across the country. Just as Tom Brokaw's "The Greatest Generation" allowed the generations to start speaking to one another about the war, my hope and prayer is that "Big Russ & Me" will give people the motivation and the ideas to start laughing and crying and rejoicing with their

own dads. If that happens, it will be such an affirmation of my dad's life and his friends and people like him across the country.

TALM: You wrote an open letter to your teen-age son, Luke, as the book's epilogue. Do you see many similarities between today's young generation and that of your father?

TR: I didn't plan to write the epilogue, but when I re-read the book, I knew I had to, largely because I see the relationship that Luke has with Big Russ. It's much different than the relationship that I had. My dad as "grandpa" is much more demonstrative and affectionate. He

'Meet the Press' host discusses dad, politics and the state of the media.

spoils, which he never did for his son, thank God. But I also sense in my own son – born in 1985, who experienced the first Persian Gulf War as a little boy, then Sept. 11 and the toppling of Saddam Hussein – a real patriotic passion and an understanding of the use of the American military. He very much relates to that in conversations with Big Russ. I sense that without the confusion of Vietnam there is much more willingness and readiness among Luke's generation, that the United States is in a unique position in the world and it should not be reluctant to use power if need be.

TALM: *Describe your relationship with Post 721.*

TR: It was the center of our social life, particularly when Dad became the commander – the same year that John Kennedy became president. And we were so proud of him because we saw the plaque "Commander Timothy J. Russert" on the board. There were 1,000 members of the post. We would go there every Memorial Day, where there would be an honor guard. We would run and retrieve the shells and then we were all taken in station wagons to Holy Cross Cemetery, where we would put American flags on the graves of veterans.

TALM: *You refer to it as "our Legion post."*

TR: Absolutely. New Year's Eve my mom and dad would go over there for the party. In the glass case was the Burke brothers' trophy (1929 American Legion World Series Champions), the only championship that Buffalo has won. It has the baseball signed by my uncle, Fran Russert ... My book tour in Buffalo will end at South Buffalo Post 721, where we will have a party and a book signing on the second floor with free beer and free Birch



NBC

interview

beer and bowls of pretzels and peanuts. I hope they crank up the old jukebox.

TALM: You say you prepare for interviews by researching a person's position and then taking the other side. Is it difficult to do this with someone you admire, like you did with the late Sen. Moynihan?

TR: Lawrence Spivak, who founded "Meet the Press"

57 years ago, told me it was the mission of the program to learn as much as you can about your guests and his or her positions, then take the other side. I feel very comfortable with that, even with Sen. Moynihan. I was always very open with the audience and say that our viewers should know that I once worked for him. But the great thing about Sen. Moynihan was that he had an enormous respect for the press and our role in society. He would sometimes kid me and say, "I think you were extra tough on me because you wanted to make sure that the audience understood that you weren't going to pull any punches." I hope that's not the case, but I know I always did my job, and he always was of good nature and understood that when you come on "Meet the Press" it isn't always an enjoyable experience. In fact, we did a book on the 50th anniversary of "Meet the Press" and asked Sen. Moynihan to write a little (passage). We asked, "What's the best way to prepare for an appearance on 'Meet the Press'?" Moynihan answers, "Don't." Then he says, "In the great Spivak era, the program ended at the stroke of noon, whereupon a silver tray laden with Bloody Marys appeared, and anxiety evanesced accordingly. After which, he would take you to lunch. Now you get orange juice at 10 o'clock in the morning, as if you had just given blood."

TALM: What was Moynihan like?

TR: Unique. He had worked for four presidents: two Republicans, Nixon and Ford; and two Demo-

'May I talk?'

Former third-party presidential candidate Ross Perot has a reputation for dodging tough questions. Tim Russert has a reputation for asking them. After Russert pointed out that Perot's economic proposals could mean cuts in transportation funding, AIDS research and other important programs, the two had this memorable exchange during Perot's May 3, 1992 appearance on "Meet the Press."



AP

Perot: Now then – this is an interesting game we're playing today. It would've been nice if you'd told me you wanted to talk about this and I had all my facts with me, but you didn't, right? Now –

Russert: Mr. Perot, you have said –

Perot: Wait just a second, wait just a second.

Russert: You have said that part of your \$400 billion deficit-reduction plan –

Perot: Now what I have also told you –

Russert: – is \$180 billion –

Perot: Yes. May I finish?

Russert: May I finish? It was a simple question.

Perot: Well, you've already finished. Go ahead, finish again. It's your program. You can do anything you want with it. Go ahead.

Russert: Well, I'm trying to get a specific answer to a proposal you've made. That's fair.

Perot: Well, I am trying to answer it.

Russert: Please do, sir.

Perot: Are you sure you're finished?

Russert: Absolutely.

Perot: OK, may I talk?

Russert: I wish you would.

Perot: Thank you.

Russert: Thank you.

Source: "Meet the Press, 50 Years of History in the Making" (McGraw-Hill)

crats, Kennedy and Johnson. He had a genuine bipartisanship to him and a deep appreciation for civility ... you can disagree without being disagreeable. He told me that facts and ideas matter, that you shouldn't waste your time spewing forth emotional rhetoric but instead get your facts straight. You can't solve a problem until you measure it. He also had a profound impact on me when he made me understand, appreciate and take pride in where I came from and

who I was. The fact that I grew up in South Buffalo and his wonderful way of walking me down the hall with his arm around me and saying to me that you can learn what the kids from Harvard know, but they can never learn what you know. I will always remember that as long as I live ... He was a great Irish patriot. He would correct your memos, grade them and find grammatical errors. He was also a great Legionnaire. He loved wearing his cap. He invited my dad to escort him down the aisle of every (New York) American Legion convention, and I know it was one of the highest honors my dad ever had.

TALM: How does Big Russ react to seeing his son interview presidents, senators and other world leaders?

TR: There are so many thoughts and emotions that I'm sure go through his mind. He gave me wonderful advice when I interviewed President Bush a few weeks ago. He said, "Be comfortable, because you have a longer contract and will be here longer than he will be. But also understand and be respectful because the Oval Office will be there long after you're gone." I try to walk that fine line ... He came here for the 50th anniversary (of "Meet the Press") and we interviewed President Clinton, and then the last time with President Bush. Both times he had exactly the same reaction. I don't think he remembers, but I can see him shaking his head and telling me on the phone, "I can't tell you what it's like to see my own boy, my own flesh and blood, sitting there toe-to-toe with the president in the Oval Office." For him, it underscores the extraordinariness of America. His favorite expression is "What a country!" When he says it, his heart is pounding.

TALM: What was your most embarrassing interview?

TR: Sen. Bob Kerrey. By far, my most embarrassing exchange was with the decorated Vietnam veteran senator from Nebraska. I

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A104AD

interview



Luke Russert, Timothy "Big Russ" Russert and Tim Russert. *Courtesy Tim Russert*

asked Kerrey whether he felt President Clinton would remain loyal to the congressional Democrats if they reformed entitlement programs such as Social Security and Medicare, or would the president "put you out on a limb and saw your limb off?" Kerrey, an amputee, explained, "Someone already sawed one of them off." I was horrified. Of all of the metaphors available, I chose the absolute most joltingly inappropriate. Sen. Kerrey was most gracious and to this day jokes about the exchange. I now assiduously avoid any tree analogies. It was awful. We went to a commercial. I was beet-red. He was wonderful during the commercial break. He said, "I own you."

TALM: Which interview was your most hostile?

TR: David Duke. I asked him what it was about the United States of America that made him want to be a Nazi. He couldn't answer. There is no answer. And he said he wanted to be the governor of "economic development," so I asked him to name Louisiana's three largest employers. He couldn't do it. Some people at NBC thought that I had crossed the line from interviewer to prosecutor. I asked my dad. He said, "If you're going to make

that mistake, make it with a Nazi..." And then, after Sept. 11, I had a Taliban on from Afghanistan and I just punched the guy's lights out. I probably shouldn't say it that way, but I did. It just came roaring back, and it wasn't like I was interviewing someone about tax cuts, Social Security or Medicare. This "gentleman" and his like supported al-Qaida and in a large part must be held accountable for Sept. 11. I have been unabashed in saying, "Yes, I am a journalist, but first I am an American citizen." It's very important ... When I interviewed Vice President (Dick) Cheney, I wore a red-white-and-blue ribbon given to me by a family who lost a loved one in the World Trade Center. I was criticized for it by *The Washington Post*, but I would do it again.

TALM: Given the issues facing the country, was your recent interview with President Bush the most important you have done?

TR: Well, obviously whenever you interview the president, President Clinton and President Bush in the Oval Office, it leaves a lasting impression. Probably the most important interview I ever did was with Vice President Cheney five days after Sept. 11. It was the first time the country heard at length what had hap-

pened, from the vice president. President Bush was traveling that day (Sept. 11), and the vice president described in extraordinary detail what was happening at the White House. On "Meet the Press," he explained in a very riveting way what transpired on that day: how the Secret Service came to his office and physically lifted him up and went down the stairs into a bunker beneath the White House. Most Americans had no idea that there was a bunker beneath the White House. I asked him what the most difficult decision he made that day was. He said it was to recommend to the president that a plane heading to the Capitol or White House should be shot down - a civilian airliner by the military - if it did not turn back or could not be intercepted. As he said it, it was so somber. It underscored the seriousness of that day and the new world that we all now have to live in. It was an amazing hour. I mentioned in my book that I called my dad afterward and he said, "Thank you."

TALM: Are you pleased with the state of the American media?

TR: I don't think we should ever be satisfied with our performance. We can always be better. The most important thing we can do is acknowledge our mistakes. I remember on "Meet the Press" (that) I reported what a court decided in Georgia and (then-Attorney General) Janet Reno sent me a letter convincing me that I was in error. I got the information from a *New York Times* article. I shouldn't have stopped there. I should have gone to the original source. The next time she was on, I said that I want to make the record clear, (that) I said this and it was incorrect. I was inundated with letters and phone calls from people who said they never see that. I think we really have to get it right and acknowledge our mistakes. It's something that only enhances our reputations ... Second thing is we need to make sure that our newsrooms have true diversity, not just ethnic or

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interview

racial diversity, that there are people from different walks of life, different geographic areas, different educations, different religions. I constantly ask people in our newsrooms (if) anybody served in the military. It's a very important question because you can have people make editorial decisions almost with tunnel vision unless you have people around the table with a multitude of experiences. So I think we have a lot of work to do in that regard.

TALM: What makes "Meet the Press" successful?

TR: The television industry has changed a lot. Journalism has changed because of 24-hour cable. Many people believe that they should be the center of attention, and the country wants to know what their views are. The 57-year tradition of "Meet the Press" is opposite of that. The emphasis is focused on the guest. My job is to elicit information. You can be persistent and still be civil. We don't have screaming, and we don't have food fights and interruptions. You want a level of discourse that you can look back at in a month or two or three years later and say, "That was a revealing interview." Sometimes people get emotional, but it's not the kind of thing you try to feed or encourage. I much prefer to have each one take their turn and make their case if it's a debate-type setting. I find as I go around the country a real appreciation of that. Almost an endangered species in political discussion and dialogue. I describe myself as a temporary custodian of a national treasure, and I believe that very deeply.

TALM: Your candidate interviews have been nicknamed "the Russert primaries." What impact do they have on the political process?

TR: I only know what others have said. Gov. (Howard) Dean said the first interview in 2002 launched his campaign and made him a serious political figure and subsequently his interview in July 2003 was probably the first

indication of some of the difficulty he was having with his temperament and ability to articulate positions. I think it was the beginning of the end. John Edwards had a very difficult interview in 2002 and to his credit became a much better candidate. I think the interview with President Bush was important and revealing. People see things through their own prism, and I never comment on my own opinion about how they have done. Certainly Ralph Nader's announcing his independent candidacy on "Meet the Press" was a significant political development. I think there is a sense many political figures would prefer forums with softball questions or yuk it up with late-night comedy shows, but they realize that if they want to be taken seriously and deal with serious issues, the best forum is "Meet the Press." If you are going to be president or you are president, how can you make tough decisions without answering tough questions?

TALM: Could a serious candidate avoid you?

TR: They might try. But eventually sometime in the process they realize their credibility is at stake, and they have to go before the audience in a legitimate respected forum, one that's been around for 57 years. When Howard Dean made his famous "scream" speech, he opted for a prime-time interview and a Letterman "Top Ten" appearance, but that wasn't enough. It wasn't enough to show an emotional side or a humorous side. People really wanted a serious explanation as to what had happened that night and how it affected his candidacy. He came forward and said it was not presidential and he obviously regretted it. In hindsight, my guess is he probably wished he did it a month earlier, before New Hampshire. There are lots of issues where people are prepared and take them on and - if they do well - are sometimes able to put the issue behind them.

TALM: Now for a prediction. Will Election 2004 be another squeaker?

TR: It's a great possibility. We are a 50-50 nation, the blue states and red states. The polling shows 45 percent for Democrats, 45 percent for Republicans and 10 percent undecided. We already know how about 30 states are going to vote. There are about 20 states up for grabs, and in those 20 states, only 10 percent of the people are up for grabs ... I think the one state that has the potential to be the Florida of 2004 is Ohio, which is more Republican in terms of presidential voting but, because of the economy, will be a real battleground state.

TALM: Has the level of debate in Washington declined?

TR: The level of debate has gotten much more negative and simplistic. It's almost a vicious cycle. There is no party discipline. They're all independent contractors ... I think television has played a role, and I cover those stories on a daily basis. It's been said that David Brinkley was asked one time about the importance of Sunday morning, and he said it's very difficult to take everything that you learned that has occurred over the course of a week and distill it to one hour, particularly television because television news seems to gravitate to conflict rather than nuance. And to think of it this way: if Moses came down from the mountaintop now, how would television news cover it? If Moses came down with the Ten Commandments, you would see Sam Donaldson with the three most important. So our challenge is to understand and accept our limitations but not surrender our integrity and our values by allowing screaming matches between political figures and not holding them accountable for the substance of the debate rather than the sizzle. If anything else, that is what I hope will be the legacy of "Meet the Press" during my tenure. ¶

Article design: Holly K. Soria

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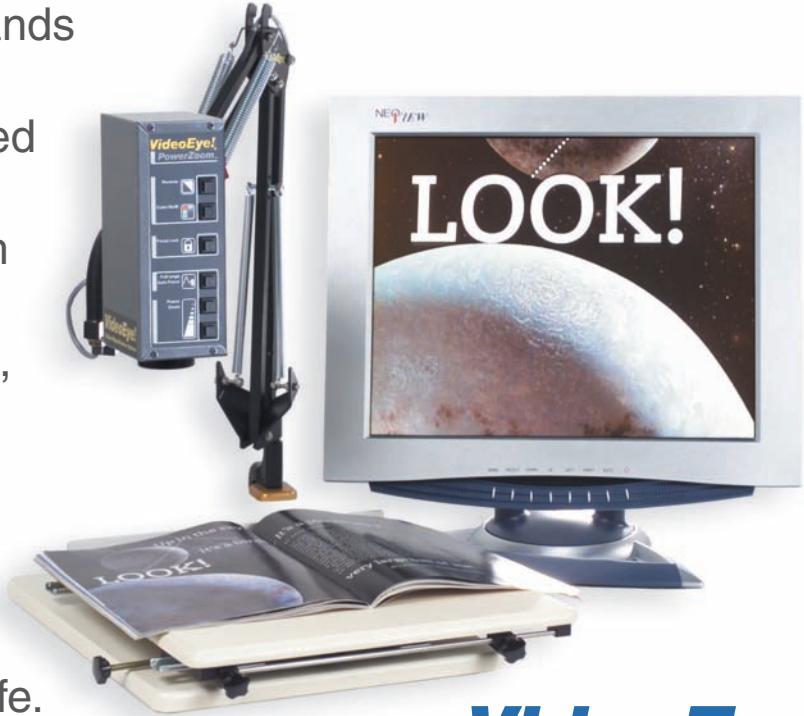
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JUDICIAL
Jackpot



Frivolous lawsuits cost Americans more than just money.

BY DENNIS McCAFFERTY

By now, you've heard about the lawsuits that seem, well, just a bit out there: the lady who sued McDonald's because she spilled hot coffee in her lap, the fellow who sued an amusement park because he was hit by lightning in the parking lot. (His lawyer argued that the park should have warned people not to be outside during a thunderstorm.) These kinds of lawsuits grab headlines. When it comes to creative lawsuits, however, you'd have to scour through a mountain of court-case files before finding something as convoluted as "The Case of the Teen-aged, Ball-Playing Stock Fraudster."

An 18-year-old teen from Mission Viejo, Calif., made more than \$1 million off the stock market but had to return all of his profits because the feds ruled he earned them via fraudulent means. The teen was an avid baseball player, too, but because of the charges, he could no longer play for his high school team. Naturally, the ball player sued the high school, arguing that it had deprived him of a potential pro career. (With no team to play for, obviously, no pro scouts would be watching him.) As for the award sought? That would be \$50 million, or the amount that the teen projected he *would* have made if he *would* have been discovered by scouts and *would* have made a major-league club.

Follow all that?

No matter how many *woulds*, if there's a will, there's a way to sue someone. And those on the side of tort reform are saying enough is enough: the unchecked ability to sue, combined with jury members' willingness to provide absurdly enormous awards, is running rampant – and sanity must be restored. The suits represent an abuse of the original intent of the system, they argue – an abuse that the average American pays in soaring insurance premiums and passing along costs to consumers.

"Juries don't realize there's no such thing as something for nothing," says Randy Cassingham, a Ridgway, Colo.-based researcher who has found cases such as those summarized above and has posted them online at Stellaawards.com. "The same juries that award millions for a ridiculous case curse their insurance companies for their rising premiums. Well, guess what? They did it to themselves."

Financial Costs. With his "Stella" awards – named for Stella Liebeck, who in 1992 spilled McDonald's coffee on her lap, sued the company and was awarded \$2.9 million from a jury – Cassingham is raising awareness. And he's not alone. The New York-based Manhattan Institute for Policy Research reports that 19 percent of tort

costs in 2001 went to plaintiffs' attorneys, adding up to \$40 billion in revenues, or double the revenues of Coca-Cola during the same period. Class-action lawsuit lawyers are earning as much as \$30,000 per hour, the institute reports. About 72 percent of doctors view patients as potential adversaries in malpractice litigation, and a large percentage limit their practices for fear of being sued, according to a survey from the Napa, Calif.-based Doctor's Company, the nation's top physician-owned medical malpractice carrier.

There's more. Torts represent 2.23 percent of the U.S. Gross Domestic Product, and the cost of torts rose to \$809 per American in 2002 vs. \$12 per American in 1950, according to Towers Perrin, a Stamford, Conn.-based global professional services firm. Corporate insurance liability premiums went up 33 percent in 2003, the firm claims.

Maureen Martin, senior fellow on legal affairs for the Heartland Institute, a Chicago-based think tank, cites a suit against *Penthouse* magazine as one of the more absurd in recent memory. The magazine claimed to run topless photos of tennis star Anna Kournikova, but, as it turned out, the photos were of another woman. A lawyer sued *Penthouse* on behalf of magazine-buying males who paid solely for the photos of Kournikova.

In another absurd case, a woman tried to commit suicide in New York by lying down on the subway tracks. She later sued and was awarded \$14.1 million because she actually ended up being hit by a subway train. "The verdict was eventually reduced to a relative pittance of \$9.9 million because of the woman's 'comparative negligence,'" Martin says.

How did it get to this point? Martin points to a flurry of classic moves and countermoves made by lawyers. For years, federal judges could impose severe financial sanctions against lawyers and clients for filing frivolous lawsuits, citing standards set by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. But a reform movement softened the standards by 1993, paving the way for a loosened legal grip on frivolous suits. Also, many cases are filed in state courts, as savvy plaintiff attorneys are well aware of the jurisdictions — most in California and the South, where juries and judges are considered award-happy or otherwise plaintiff-sympathetic.

Oh, and how about those juries? In an idealistic world — one resembling the kind of legal system that our forefathers actually intended — the jury would be a solid representation of the community from which it was selected. That's hardly the case today, tort reformists say. "Folks just like you and me with demanding employment are probably among those granted postponements or excused for hardship, leaving a residue of the unemployed or unemployable," Martin says. "Even if you and I were not excused, we would likely never be selected." That's because if you seem too smart or otherwise well-spoken, the plaintiff attorney will seek to remove you. You may pay too much attention to the actual legal grounding of the case, instead of being manipulated strictly on an emotional level.

As for solutions? Tort reformists suggest a capping of class-action

"There are just too many people who expect something for nothing and too few people left who value integrity, act ethically and put that above the pursuit of the almighty dollar."

— Rochelle J. Schneider, Manhattan Beach, Calif., attorney and liability consultant for Fortune 500 companies

attorney fees; caps for damages for pain, suffering and other non-economic-based hardships; and per-diem payments to jurors so that more educated persons can serve. Such proposals are gaining ground. By the end of 2003, 34 states had put punitive-damages reforms in place, and 23 states have modified rules for giving awards for non-economically related damages, according to the American Tort Reform Association. In California, the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act has limited non-economically related damages against a health-care provider to \$250,000 and has limited lawyer contingency fees. The act has served as a model for several states that have either enacted similar standards or are seeking to do so. "Several companies I work with have seen their insurance costs double and even triple," says Rochelle J. Schneider, a Manhattan Beach, Calif.-based attorney and business consultant on limiting liability for Fortune 500 companies. "Many small businesses must either reduce their workforce or go without coverage completely. There are just too many people who expect something for nothing and too few people left who value integrity, act ethically and put that above the pursuit of the almighty dollar."

Is Tort Reform Necessary? Of course, the debate has another side: limiting damages, as well as the ability to sue, violates our nation's ideological foundation. And some statistical evidence suggests a crisis may not be brewing at all. According to the

Williamsburg, Va.-based National Center for State Courts, tort filings have actually declined by 9 percent since 1992. Automobile tort filings, the majority of all tort claims, have fallen by 14 percent. Medical malpractice filings per 100,000 population have fallen by 1 percent.

The Washington-based Association of Trial Lawyers of America

indicates that a number of the allegedly frivolous cases often cited in the media cannot be documented or verified but are still blown up by conservative talk-show hosts. As for that "Stella" case? The plaintiff, Liebeck, really did suffer third-degree burns. And McDonald's produced documents demonstrating more than 700 claims by people who said they were burned by its coffee between 1982 and 1992. "Wealthy and powerful corporate interests have spent literally billions of dollars attempting to avoid accountability to those they injure or defraud," says association president David Casey, a private-practice attorney in San Diego. "Taking away the legal rights of American families is not 'reform.' Our system of justice is one of responsibility and accountability. How can conservatives who so strongly support the Constitution turn their backs on the Seventh Amendment — the right to a trial by jury? They want to substitute the 'one-size-fits-all' judgment of insurance-industry lobbyists and politicians for that of your friends, neighbors and co-workers who serve on juries and hear all the facts."

Much of the problem is that the extreme cases get all the attention. "We are, after all, talking about human beings, and we can find examples of abuse in the area of litigation," says Livonia, Mich.-based attorney Terry Cochran. "The proponents of severely limiting the ability to file a suit, or of reducing awards, are just telling us a few scare stories. It's not representative of

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our judicial system." As for the economic cost passed on to consumers? Cochran and others speaking out against tort reform are skeptical. "When was the last time you read an article about an insurance company filing for Chapter 11 protection?" he asks.

Ken Suggs, a private-practice attorney in Columbia, S.C., says, "Multimillionaire CEOs and insurance company lobbyists don't like the idea that ordinary people can sit in a jury box and have an impact on their decisions, such as recalling a defective product. By telling a lie long enough and loud enough, it's possible to create an illusion that the lie is true. In fact, our system is working just fine to help citizens who have legitimate claims get redress and to weed out claims that do not deserve compensation."

Not so fast, tort reformists contend. The number of cases filed has no bearing on the amount of awards given. According to the Department of Transportation, automobile tort filings are down because traffic and car safety have actually improved in recent years – from 6.6 million crashes in 1997 to 6.3 million in 2001, the most recent year from which statistics are available. Those who compile lists of frivolous lawsuits and distribute them, like Cassingham, insist the cases are real, as are the cases summarized in this article. The amusement park case pitted a plaintiff from Laurel, Ind., against Paramount's Kings Island park in Mason, Ohio. The teen-aged ballplayer sued the Mission Viejo, Calif., school district. The New York subway case and the *Penthouse* lawsuit are real. In fact, Cassingham includes a link on his site pointing out cases publicized in the media but actually were made up, in order to distinguish phony cases from real ones. Among the phonies is the lady who sued a microwave manufacturer after she attempted to dry off her poodle by putting it

in the microwave, and it died. Never happened.

And if you really want to get into the details about the coffee case, tort reformists bring up these key points: 700 claims of injury out of a total McDonald's consumer base of 24 million is an extraordinarily small number, relatively speaking.

It's enough to get tort reformists buzzing again about even more cases they've heard of: the mom who sued to bar a certain 3-year-old from a sandbox at a playground in Boston; the student from New Jersey who sued to be sole valedictorian instead of sharing those duties with a peer; the passenger who sought \$200 million for emotional distress because she was on a Staten Island ferry that crashed – even though she wasn't injured.

"Certain kinds of people have learned that they can bring a lawsuit pretty much anytime they feel aggrieved," says Philip K. Howard, chairman of Common Good, a legal-reform coalition and author of "The Death of Common Sense" and "The Collapse of the Common Good."

"The theories and amounts keep escalating because judges don't see it as their role to draw the boundaries of what's a reasonable claim. As one judge said to me, 'Who am I to judge?' The judges sit on their hands and then wonder why the claims spin into outer space. The greatest harm, however, is not the actual verdicts but the legal fear that now infects daily choices. Doctors squander billions in unnecessary 'defensive medicine.' Teachers don't put their arms around a crying child. See-saws have disappeared. Fear of litigation has changed our culture." ☺

Dennis McCafferty is a senior writer for USA Weekend from Herndon, Va.

Illustration: Sam Minnick

Article design: King Doxsee

Loony Lawsuits

Addicted to Cable. A West Bend, Wis., man threatened to sue a cable company for \$5,000 or three computers and a lifetime supply of free Internet service as part of a settlement for his alleged TV addiction, his wife's 50-pound weight gain and his children's laziness. The man said he plans to sue because his cable connection remained active four years after he tried to get it cancelled. The result was that his family received free cable from August 1999 to Dec. 23, 2003. "I believe the reason I smoke and drink every day and my wife is overweight is because we watched TV every day for the last four years," the man stated in a written complaint against the company and in a police report. "The reason I am suing is they didn't let me make a decision as to what was best for myself and my family. They have been keeping cable coming into my home for four years after I asked them to turn it off." His name was removed from billing at the time of his request but not from the cable service. He claims he called several times to get the service disconnected because he felt he had become addicted.

Don't Snicker. A woman filed a lawsuit against the transit system in Juneau, Alaska, because a driver's attempt to enforce the no-eating rule on a bus caused her at least \$50,000 worth of emotional distress. She was trying to eat a Snickers bar.

A Bad Potato. An inmate in a jail near San Diego, while awaiting trial for raping an underage girl, filed a lawsuit against the facility because of the mental stress and anguish of finding a fly in his mashed potatoes.

Pickled Justice. A West Virginia convenience-store worker won \$2,699,000 in punitive damages after injuring her back opening a pickle jar. She also received \$130,066 in compensation and \$170,000 for emotional distress. A state supreme court justice dissented, calling the award "outrageous." The court, however, upheld most of the punitive damages: \$2.2 million.

Can We Sue God? A federal judge has once again rejected a lawsuit filed by a Pennsylvania man who claims his life was ruined by a corporation after it fired him more than 30 years ago. The same man also sued God for taking "no corrective action" against his enemies, and he demands God compensate him by returning his youth and granting him guitar-playing skills.

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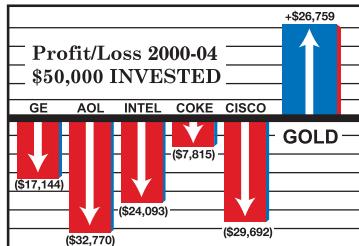
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Flagging Responses

Liberal readers roiled over an unexpected position on the flag amendment.

BY STEVEN LUBET



Nothing I've ever written has provoked as many responses as my recent article (reprinted in the June 2004 issue of *The American Legion Magazine*) on the proposed flag-protection amendment.

To recap, I suggested that liberals – including me – ought to rethink their vocal opposition to the amendment for at least three reasons. First, the amendment would not really restrict freedom of expression in the sense that no ideas or viewpoints would be suppressed. One manner of protest – flag burning – would be prohibited, but the underlying sentiments could still be expressed in countless other ways. I also pointed out that the familiar “slippery slope” argument has remarkably little force in this instance, given the extraordinary difficulty of amending the U.S. Constitution. Finally, I noted that 80 percent of Americans are in favor of a flag-protection amendment. That is not reason enough to support it, of course. Majorities are often wrong. But it would not hurt for liberals to pay more attention to the preferences of the majority, especially in purely symbolic matters.

I will spare you the favorable comments I received from moderates and conservatives. The more interesting responses came from fellow liberals who were saddened or outraged by my defection. My column was “a lot of hooey,” according to a Philadelphia lawyer, who reminded me that “principles are principles.”

Others questioned my claim that I have not lost my liberal bearings. “How can you tell?” asked a Chicago

reader, charging me with making “ad hoc exceptions to principle.”

Let's take a look at the principles I might have betrayed. One argument is that freedom of expression must never be restrained. That is a consistent position, but I know of no one who truly adheres to it. First Amendment law is shot through with exceptions: child pornography, fighting words, sexual harassment, cross burning, libel, deceptive advertising, some types of hate speech, picketing within 100 feet of an abortion clinic, to name only the most prominent. The addition of flag burning to this list would not exactly open the floodgates. In any event, most liberals endorse some or all of the existing limitations on speech, so protecting the flag should hardly drum me out of the corps. Some absolutists may be out there, but I suspect they are few.

Perhaps the point is that the First Amendment is too precious ever to be amended. Although many people hold that respectable view, it is unsustainable as an ironclad principle. Ultimately, the First Amendment has to be treated like the rest of the Constitution: subject to amendment under the terms of Article V, if only to correct glaring errors by the Supreme Court.

To use a recent example, the Court held in *Employment Division v. Smith* that the First Amendment does not require a “free exercise of religion” exception to generally applicable criminal laws. Congress attempted to reverse that ruling by passing the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which the Court promptly ruled unconstitutional in *City of Boerne v. Flores*. Many scholars and activists, both liberal and conservative, strongly question both decisions as damaging religious freedom and badly misinterpreting the

Constitution. Would it be wrong, unprincipled or illiberal to propose a constitutional amendment to correct the Court's mistake, or does First Amendment absolutism mean the Supreme Court is always unamendably correct?

I hope it is obvious that such an inflexible principle would be far more troubling than the flag-protection amendment. The Supreme Court sometimes gets things very wrong – consider the Dred Scott case and *Plessy v. Ferguson* – and the Constitution therefore provides a necessary corrective in the amendment process. That does not mean the flag-protection amendment is a good idea, but it is certainly within the ambit of liberalism to consider its potential virtues.

Several readers voiced a less sweeping and more pragmatic objection to the flag-protection amendment. They argued it will become a precedent for further restrictions on free speech. One Californian wrote that “toying with a basic constitutional principle cannot help but cheapen the process of amending the Constitution.” The slippery slope may be a staple metaphor in the liberal lexicon, but it is not very persuasive in this situation. Apart from the Bill of Rights and the Reconstruction amendments, the fact is that constitutional amendments don’t come in clusters. If one amendment were truly the stepping stone to another, 16-year-olds would be eligible to vote and the presidency would be limited to a single term.

Another version of the bad-precedent argument exists, one that does not rely on a constitutional domino effect. A Washington, D.C., reader observed that the eventual enabling legislation could turn out worse than the amendment itself. “The constitutional slope will get its incline and slickness when Congress enacts draconian prohibitions.”

Fortunately, the proposed flag-protection amendment is pretty narrow, providing only that “the Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.”

Authority is given exclusively to Congress, not to state legislatures; it protects only the flag itself, not other red, white, and blue banners, shirts or napkins; and it applies only to physical desecration, not manners of display or other forms of disrespect. Drafters of the amendment obviously took some care to make it as specific and viewpoint-neutral as possible. Perhaps it is still too broad, but that would be a reason for liberals to enter negotiations over the amendment, not to fight it tooth and nail.

The question of over-breadth actually brings us to one of the underappreciated advantages of a flag-protection amendment. The Supreme Court’s two flag-burning cases, *Texas v. Johnson* and *United States v. Eichman*, were both decided on 5-4 votes. While Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony Kennedy voted with the majority, the other three – William Brennan, Harry Blackmun and Thurgood Marshall – are no longer on the Court. Given the Court’s current membership, and the possibility of multiple Bush appointments, it is quite possible that the issue will be revisited and that *Johnson* and *Eichman* will be overruled.

The Supreme Court, though, cannot simply ban flag burning. Instead, the opinion would have to carve out a much broader exception for expressive conduct, which would necessarily be open-ended. At the most extreme, we might get a decision that excludes all sorts of offensive behavior from the First Amendment: goose-stepping, clenched-fist salutes, obscene gestures and who knows what else.

Unlike a Supreme Court opinion, a constitutional amendment can be specifically limited to protecting the flag. No further rationale is necessary and no general principle would emerge. Indeed, the broad range of expressive conduct might be safer under the flag-protection amendment than under the fragile protection of a vanished Supreme Court majority.

In the final analysis, the amend-

ment process is political, and politics sometimes requires compromises. Given that the flag-protection amendment would have no noticeable impact on the content of free expression or public debate, I think it is prudent to suggest that liberal efforts would be far better spent elsewhere.

Needless to say, many committed liberals see things differently. A young reader put it rather eloquently: “In a time when dissent has been demonized in the media and when patriotism has been defined as unconditional support of our president, it is dangerous to allow our expressive rights to be curbed.”

Alas, I think he got it exactly wrong. At a time when dissent is devalued – it has not been demonized – liberals have no reason to align themselves with the angry immolations of the most eccentric and divisive protesters. More than anything, our nation today needs discourse, not tantrums. Sure, we have to defend to the death everyone’s right to say, write, think, shout, sing and signify their viewpoints. But we don’t have to stake the future of progressive politics on the protection of flag burning.

In the 2000 election, George W. Bush carried Florida by about 500 votes, largely on the strength of military absentee ballots. Most of those votes were cast by enlisted personnel, working-class men and women who might well be Democrats. Forget about butterfly ballots and hanging chads. Al Gore really lost Florida because of the perception that liberals are anti-defense and insufficiently patriotic. Rigid opposition to the flag-protection amendment just reinforces a mistaken perception. Needless to say, it is time for a change. ¶

Steven Lubet is a professor of law at Northwestern University. His most recent book is “Nothing but the Truth: Why Trial Lawyers Don’t, Can’t and Shouldn’t Have to Tell the Whole Truth.” E-mail him at slubet@law.northwestern.edu.

Article design: Doug Rollison

*Recovery teams
scour the earth
for remains of
fallen Americans.*



'Until They Are Home'

BY JAMES V. CARROLL

The Russian-made MI-17 helicopter lifts off from a primitive mountainside perch. The rotor wash creates a micro-burst, spraying dust and pebbles at crouching onlookers trying to shield themselves from the blast. The whop-whop-whop of rotor blades soon fades as the helicopter descends into the morning haze and down the valley toward Ha Long on the coast and eventually to Hanoi, 165 kilometers inland.

Newly arrived journalists at site 1912, a remote mountain peak in Vietnam's Quang Ninh Province, have come via the MI-17 to witness efforts by U.S. and Vietnamese recovery teams dispatched to locate the remains of two Navy aviators whose fighter-bomber crashed more than 30 years ago.

The U.S. team is part of a \$44-million-a-year Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command headquartered in Oahu, Hawaii. It is one of about two dozen elite investigation and recovery

units comprised of military and civilian specialists who scour the earth to repatriate and identify the remains of felled American warriors. The teams hack through jungles, slog through dangerous swamps, rappel from helicopters, dive into oceans and lakes, and slither up and down ropes along treacherous cliffs. They traverse bare mountain ridges and heavily forested valleys. They endure sweltering heat and numbing cold.

The men and women of JPAC carry out their solemn mission mindful of our nation's longstanding tradition to recover the remains of men and women who died at war. Their efforts on battlefields past and present give comfort to today's soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines. The quest further recognizes the value we, as Americans, place on each individual life and our country's moral commitment to spare no effort to recover all who fell fighting under the U.S. Flag.



*"We write no last chapters.
We close no books.
We put away no final memories.
An end to America's involvement
in Vietnam cannot come
before we've achieved the
fullest possible accounting
of those missing in action."*

— Ronald Reagan

Forensic anthropologist Elliott Moore, foreground, joins a civilian-military work crew in the effort to close the books on a U.S. Navy fighter jet crash during the Vietnam War.

James V. Carroll

"It's wonderful what these young men and women have done over the years to find and return my son to me," says the mother of one of the missing pilots. "It means a lot that our country has not forgotten. It's been an up-and-down ride for a long time, but maybe soon I can be at ease knowing my boy is finally at home."

No Stone Unturned. As members of the landing party whisk dust from their clothing, they move toward a pathway gouged into the mountainside. It leads into the forest. Sandbags, baked by the scorching sun on hardpan, line a tenuous serpentine corridor through otherwise impassible terrain. For the uninitiated, the gentle climb is more like a forced march. The thin air is flavored with the sour, musky taste of turned soil.

Boots slap rhythmically against manmade steppingstones. Voices can be heard nearby. The source of the commotion is not visible until a portal in the dense underbrush slowly widens, revealing the crash site. It's a sobering view.

Dozens of people crowd the inhospitable 45-degree incline, working to unearth the human remains of the aviators, presumed to have perished here in 1972. Jagged rocks break through otherwise clean-scraped, rust-colored earth. Staked twine divides a 130-meter-by-70-meter excavation site into a 5-meter-by-5-meter grid. Small red pennants are positioned around the site, identifying objects that could be of danger, interest or importance.

Vietnamese villagers use pickaxes to loosen barren soil. Others precariously line the steep bank, passing buckets of excavated dirt, hand to hand, toward makeshift tarp-covered bamboo sifting shacks.

Dirt from the 5-gallon plastic buckets is dumped into wooden and wire-mesh sifting-trays. Life-support artifacts, personal effects and scant bits of human remains are picked, sorted, catalogued and locked away. Twisted and shattered aircraft wreckage, few pieces larger than a child's lunchbox, is tossed onto a pile at the base of the excavation site.

A Vietnamese girl, barely 5 feet tall, interrupts her tedious labor long enough to squash a poisonous millipede before it can injure



Grim evidence to the fate of two naval aviators.

James V. Carroll

anyone. Another young girl, her legs and torso folded into a z-shape, squats on the flats of her feet, needlework occupying her idle time. A colorful bandanna obscures her youthful face. A U.S. soldier pops a new CD into his nearby battery-powered boom box.

Higher on the hill, Army Staff Sgt. Kory McDaniel, the team's mortuary-affairs specialist, lifts a small item into the air. He examines it closely and then tosses it aside, satisfied it is not human bone. He wends his way along the sifting line to inspect another small object uncovered by an elderly Vietnamese woman; her face and hands are wrinkled with age, her teeth blackened by beetlenut juice.

Forensic anthropologist Elliott Moore, a civilian veteran of several excavations throughout his career, leads the joint team. It's archaeology and anthropology at its finest, practiced by the best. JPAC's 75th Joint Field Activity team digs for comrades and onetime foes who died in what seems an ancient time in a faraway land. They risk life and limb to bring home Lt. Cmdrs. Roderick Barnum Lester and Harry Seeber Mossman.



Brig. Gen. W. Montague Winfield is commander of the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, headquartered at Hickam Air Force Base in Oahu, Hawaii.

The American Legion Magazine: Why is the JPAC/CILHI mission important?

Brig. Gen. W. Montague Winfield: JPAC's hard work and dedication represent the high national priority America places on bringing home our missing. The U.S. government, the Department of Defense and the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command are committed to the fullest possible accounting of all Americans still missing or unaccounted for, in defense of our great country. JPAC will continue to fulfill our nation's promise to the POW/MIA families and those Americans still waiting to come home.

TALM: How do you describe full accounting?

WMW: U.S. efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all Americans missing as a result of our nation's previous conflicts means that we will do everything in our power to research, investigate, recover and identify our missing. Various circumstances such as deep-water ocean losses may preclude our achieving this for every one of the more than 88,000 still unaccounted for, but rest assured that we will have left no stone unturned in our search for them.

TALM: What is most frustrating about your mission?

WMW: JPAC identifies on average two individuals each week, roughly 100 per year. That's a significant achievement, certainly, but when you consider how many are still missing, we've still got a long way to go.

Lester, born June 19, 1946, grew up in Morton, Wash. Flying was his passion. As a third-grader, he drew pictures of jets, says his mother. Friends describe Lester as both a serious student and a prankster. He was a high-school class salutatorian in 1964 and a topnotch flight student at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station in Washington, where he found glee in buzzing his small hometown during low-level supersonic training sorties. He welcomed the thrill and challenge of combat flying and dreamed he would one day be an astronaut at the controls of a NASA spacecraft.

Mossman was born in Augusta, Maine, and moved with his family to Manhasset, N.Y. He played football at Manhasset High School on the same field dominated a decade earlier by young running back Jim Brown, who later played for the Cleveland Browns and became a Hall-of-Famer in the National Football League. Mossman went to Bates College in Maine where he played football and was on the track team. His family remembers him as a serious thinker. Mossman aspired to be a writer. He taught his young son, Tom, to play poker. He would have celebrated his 61st birthday last month.

In the shade of a canvas awning back at base camp, team leader Marine Capt. Daniel Madden and Air Force Master Sgt. Billy Sasser, the team's life-support specialist, talk about items recovered in the past few days. They place metal parts of two pistols on a bamboo table. They add a partially intact Geneva Convention card identifying Mossman and a nylon watchstrap. They also describe bone fragments recently unearthed.

Investigators on earlier missions to site 1912 turned up numerous artifacts, including parts of an ejection seat, survival kits and vests, zippers, buckles, snaps and buttons, part of a sock and a piece of parachute. They also found a mangled dog tag and a shredded leather patch with a partial name on it. These are what remain of the men.

Last Words. It was to be just another night of duty for Lester and Mossman as they catapulted off the USS *Kitty Hawk* in their A-6A Intruder fighter-bomber Aug. 20, 1972. It was Lester's 144th mission, Mossman's 125th. If everything went well, the attack squadron aviators would be back aboard their floating landing strip in three to four hours, joking with their fellow pilots.

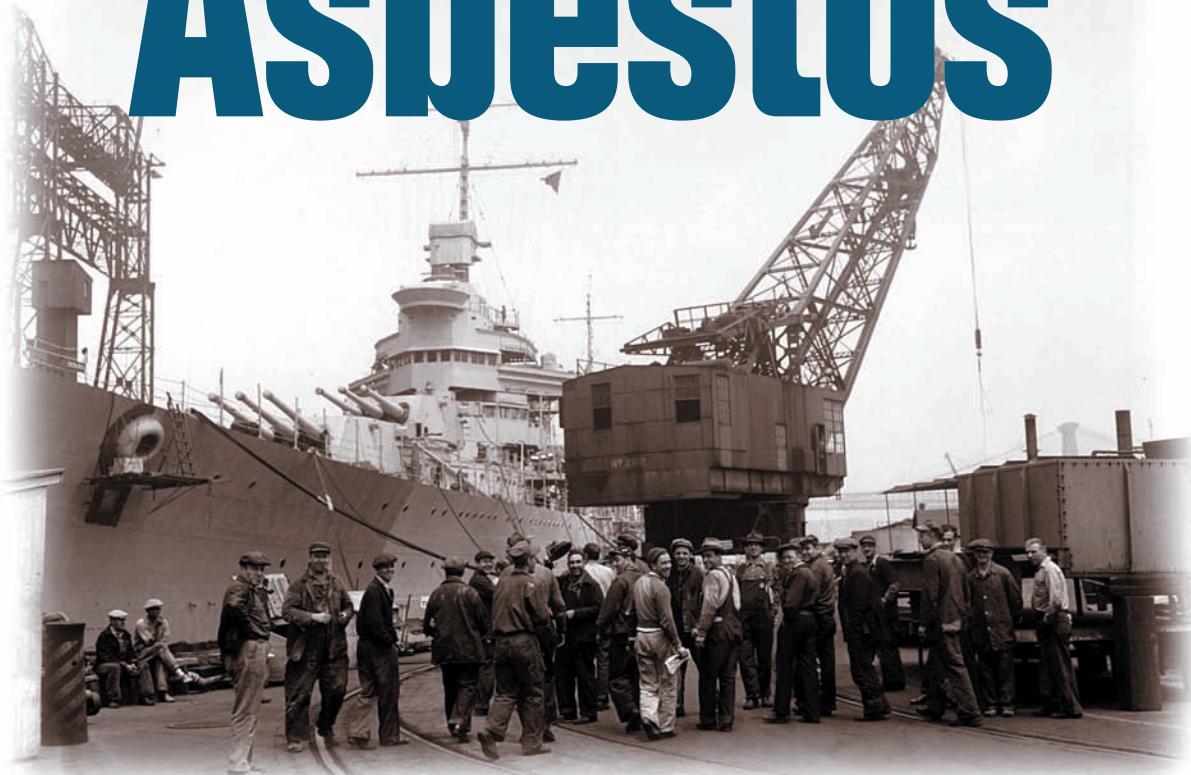


A Vietnamese girl relaxes during a break at the crash site. *James V. Carroll*

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From the 1930s to 1965 the Brooklyn Navy Yard teemed with activity. Thousands of men and women worked there — **and at hundreds of other shipyards, factories, powerhouses and construction sites** — to keep America strong through times of war and peace.

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Thunderstorms broke across the skies over coastal Quang Ninh province east of Hanoi. The rugged mountains were blanketed under 1,000 feet of overcast. Sometime during their low-level, armed reconnaissance mission, the pilots encountered trouble. One of them remarked in a brief radio transmission heard by other Navy pilots in the area, "Let's get the hell out of here." Those were the last words anyone would hear from them.

Soon, an aircrew flying the same mission saw a bright flash in the sky. Poor weather made it impossible to pinpoint the source, and electronic surveillance turned up nothing. *Kitty Hawk* pilots conducting a visual search encountered enemy fire and returned to the carrier not knowing the fate of their buddies. The Navy declared Lester and Mossman missing in action when they failed to return to their ship.

The fate of the two naval aviators remained unclear until 1994, when investigators learned

The Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command was created from the merger of the 30-year-old U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory in Hawaii and the 11-year-old Joint Task Force – Full Accounting. To carry out its mission, JPAC divides its work into five areas:

ANALYSIS. Historians and analysts use multiple human and archival sources to create a loss-incident file for missing individuals and provide operations and laboratory sections with information regarding an MIA.

NEGOTIATION. JPAC carries out technical negotiations and meetings with representatives of foreign governments including Russia, Germany, France, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, North Korea, China, Papua New Guinea, Burma and others to ensure positive in-country conditions for investigative and recovery operations.

INVESTIGATION. Investigation teams deploy to locations around the world to document and survey potential sites, to generate new leads that may result in future recoveries and to assist in the planning of future recovery efforts.

RECOVERY. Recovery team specialists include a team leader, sergeant and forensic anthropologist. Other team members may include a linguist, medic, life-support technician, explosives ordnance technician, mortuary affairs specialists, mountaineering specialists, communication technicians and mechanics.

IDENTIFICATION. CILHI forensic anthropologists examine recovered skeletal remains. Forensic odontologists, or dentists, examine recovered teeth, fillings and crowns. Often, DNA tests are performed to identify remains.

Source: Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command

of a crash site on a remote mountainside near where Lester and Mossman disappeared. In late 1999 or early 2000, the U.S. government told their families that pieces of the aircraft had been found and identified. The scene has

been investigated five times and excavated seven. The first excavation began in January 1997, the last in October and November 2003. Each new effort strengthened the theory that the two naval aviators were in the Intruder when it slammed full-bore into the mountainside some 70 feet below its peak.

"We've identified the aircraft," Madden explains. "We know that both pilots were in the plane at the time of the crash. We can presume identification, but we will not know for certain until tests are completed in Hawaii."

The words "can presume identification," softly spoken outside a hooch on a faraway Vietnam mountainside, are words the aviators' families have both awaited and feared for more than three decades.

On Jan. 15, in a solemn ceremony at Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii, JPAC repatriated remains believed to be associated with the losses of Lester and Mossman. They were then taken to JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory on Oahu to arrange for DNA testing that may establish positive identification.

Waiting at Home. While thousands of American families continue to hope and pray for the return of their fallen heroes, the decades-long wait for the Lester and Mossman families appears to be ending.

"After Rog (Lester) was listed as missing in action, we believed for several years after that he was a prisoner somewhere," said his mother, Esther, a retired schoolteacher. "We believed he would be found."

Today, 32 years later, she continues to hope that her son did not die on that remote mountainside but rather that he is alive somewhere in Vietnam.

She sits at a Santa Rosa, Calif., dining room table, flanked by a vase of long-stem red roses and her older son, Reginald. She peers at scrapbooks filled with pictures of her youngest son, some taken of him as a boy growing up in Morton. She pores over high school and college pictures and photos of him as a naval aviator. She examines a pile of newspaper clippings



Scrapbooks offer little comfort to Esther Lester and her son, Reginald. *James V. Carroll*

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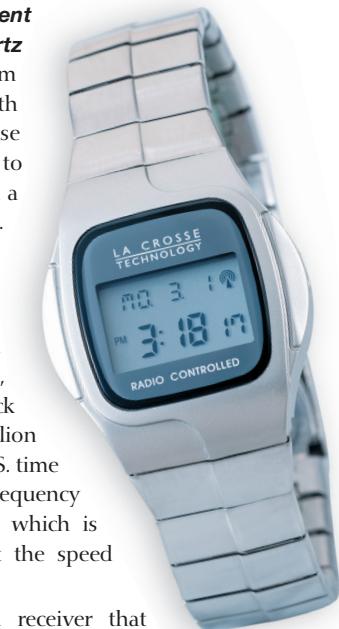
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that exhort her son's duty, bravery and sacrifice. She reaches to pat Reginald's hand.

Esther and the entire Lester family have lived through years of rumor, speculation, hope and disappointment. Reg, her husband of 63 years, died not knowing his son's crash site had been located. Esther hopes to learn the truth before "my time is finished. My heart aches at times," the 87-year-old widow says. "I miss Rog. We all miss him."

On a hill overlooking the countryside near Yakima, Wash., Bill Moore has an ache in his heart, as well. He remembers little or nothing of his dad, Harry Mossman. His older brother, Tom, was 4 years old, and Bill was 2 when Mossman and Lester disappeared.

Leafing through old photographs and newspaper clippings in a worn and dog-eared scrapbook, Moore pauses to inspect one particular photo. "I only know bits and pieces about my dad," he says. "My mom has told me things, but these scrapbooks, a few home



POW/MIA bracelets are a poor substitute for a missing father, Moore says. **James V. Carroll**

movies and some mementos are all I know about him."

Among Moore's memorabilia are two POW/MIA bracelets, both dated Aug. 20, 1972, one inscribed with the name Lt. Harry Mossman, the other with Lt. Roderick Lester.

Moore opens a 50-page letter written by his dad. It is dated Jan. 19, 1972. The missive contains fatherly advice. Mossman wrote about emotions and

values and opined that everyone has a role to play. His role was that of a warrior. "The saddest part of the job that I have undertaken," Mossman wrote to his young sons, "is that the armed services by their nature, represent the last resort, when rational solutions to the country's problems have failed."

As Moore sorts through images of a father he does not remember, his own 2-year-old son pesters him to play a video game. "We named him Harrison, after his grandfather Harry," says the proud papa as he heads to the living room.

The aviators' families are trying to make peace with the fact that their loved ones are gone, lost decades ago in a war half a world away. They represent two of more than 1,800 Vietnam War families who want to know anything they can regarding whereabouts or conditions. Another 86,000-plus are missing in action from World War II, the Korean War and the Cold War. One Navy pilot is missing from the first Gulf War.

The men and women of JPAC toil daily to bring closure for families with missing loved ones – sometimes at the risk of their own lives.

During a routine recovery mission in spring 2001, seven Americans and nine Vietnamese perished when their helicopter crashed in the fog into the side of a mountain near the coastal dunes in southern Vietnam. They had been searching for men dead for decades, carrying out their solemn and sacrosanct credo to not give up the search for America's fallen heroes "until they are home." ☙

Epilogue: Remains recovered at site 1912 have been identified as those of Lt. Cmdr. Harry Mossman. The Navy notified his family in May. Lt. Cmdr. Roderick Lester is listed by the Navy as "killed in action, body not recovered." Recovery efforts are concluded.

James V. Carroll is an assistant editor at The American Legion Magazine.

Article design: Holly K. Soria

Source: Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command, U.S. Army Central Identification Laboratory, Hawaii

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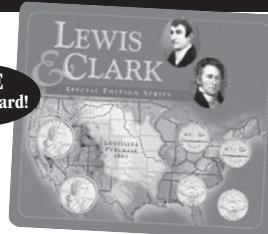
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Continental Rift

Tempelhof Airport's closure symbolizes the chilled relations between Europe and America since the Cold War's end.



German children, opposite, cheer as U.S. Armed Forces airlift supplies to West Berlin after communists sealed off the borders. But times have changed, above, with anti-U.S. sentiment raging in Europe because of the Iraq war. Corbis/AP

BY ALAN W. DOWD

Officials in Berlin have quietly announced their intention to close Tempelhof Airport. The airlines are fighting it because of Tempelhof's proximity to downtown Berlin, and the preservationists are fighting it because of Tempelhof's storied history. Politicians insist the airstrip is too small and too inefficient to be of any use.

That certainly wasn't the case 55 years ago, when Tempelhof was the hub of the Berlin Airlift and the symbol of America's commitment to Europe, Europe's dependence on America, and their common cause in the Cold War. Packing up this piece of history marks more than the end

of an era; it is a metaphor for how far apart Europe and America have drifted.

In the Routine. Triggered by Moscow's decision in June 1948 to blockade the overland corridors between the divided city of Berlin and western Germany, the Berlin Airlift marked the beginning of the Cold War and foreshadowed its ultimate outcome.

Soviet leader Josef Stalin wanted the Americans out of Berlin, but he didn't want to fight a war over it. As Churchill observed, "I do not believe that Soviet Russia desires war. What they desire is the fruits of war and the indefinite expansion of their power." By blockading Berlin, Stalin no doubt thought he had checkmated his battle-

weary Western allies with a *fait accompli*. What he didn't realize was that the Allies had another option. And so began the Berlin Airlift, one of the greatest military, political and technological feats of the 20th century.

Blending the principles of strategic bombing with the efficiency of a Detroit assembly line, Lt. Gen. Curtis LeMay crafted an air campaign unlike any in history. From June 1948 to September 1949, Allied pilots flew 277,000 missions and delivered 2.3 million tons of supplies to Berlin. Some 32,000 troops and 23,000 civilians participated in the mission, which the Americans called "Operation Vittles" and the British dubbed "Operation Plainfare."

About 75 percent of the missions were flown by Americans and as such ended at Tempelhof, an old airfield in the U.S.-occupied sector of Berlin. Along with Gatow in the British sector and Tegel in the French, Tempelhof never slept. At the height of the airlift, Tempelhof received coal- and food-laden planes every three minutes. As *Air Force Magazine* detailed in 1998, ground crews could unload a C-54 or C-47 cargo plane in just five minutes and have it back in the air in a half-hour. "The airlift became almost routine," said Gen. T. Ross Milton, chief of staff for the Combined Berlin Airlift Task Force. "Visitors who came for a look at this famous defiance of Stalin were slightly disappointed by the orderly and measured way the airplanes came and went through Berlin."

Of course, it wasn't always routine. According to *Air Force Magazine*, the airlift armada came under fire 123 times; of the 77 men killed during the mercy mission, 31 were Americans.

The crisis defined America for an entire generation of Europeans. During those 15 months, the United States showcased not just its military might, political resolve and boundless economic capacity, but a unique ability to bring all of these to bear in pursuit of its national interests – and an eagerness to balance those interests against the most basic needs of its former enemies in Germany.

Just as important, the airlift awoke Europe and America to a new threat – a threat that surrounded Berlin and menaced the rest of western Europe. It's no coincidence that NATO was born as British and American cargo planes were streaming in and out of Berlin.

The Alliance Frays. Fast-forward 55 years. Berlin is united, but the transatlantic community is divided. As with the decline of Tempelhof, this didn't happen overnight.

"After two world wars and decades of deferring to Washington, continental Europe may simply no longer have the capacity to play a leadership role on the battlefield."

The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 awakened a long-dormant dream among Europe's policy-making elite to create an identity independent of the United States and to transform the international system from one shaped by America's "hard" power, which relies on the use or threat of military force, into one shaped by Europe's "soft" power, which relies on diplomacy and multilateral institutions. As Margaret Thatcher concluded at the time, the Germans were "losing their appetite for defense." Brent Scowcroft, who served as national security adviser to the elder Bush, noticed, "The United States seemed largely absent in longer-term French calculations about Europe."

When Yugoslavia began to descend into civil war in 1991, the Europeans seized upon the crisis as an opportunity to prove they were ready to lead. It was, as one European diplomat declared, "the hour of Europe." Washington took the hint and stepped aside.

Yet behind the words was little action. As historian William Pfaff observes in "The Wrath of Nations," the Europeans were "unable to act collectively and refused to act individually." In Pfaff's view, the United Nations and the European Union "actually proved an obstacle to action, by inhibiting individual national action and rationalizing the refusal to act nationally."

After four years of feckless diplomacy and 250,000 deaths, the hour of Europe had passed. The United States reasserted itself in late 1995, brought the Yugoslav war to a rapid conclusion and made sure to avoid a repeat in Kosovo by leading from the outset.

Some say Europe's failure to act was the natural byproduct of military weakness. After all, defense spending in France is \$46 billion, or just 2.5 percent of GDP; in Germany it's a scant 1.3 percent of GDP. The United States, by comparison, invests more than 3 percent of a much

larger GDP, translating into some \$400 billion in defense outlays.

Of course, the European Union's allergy to "hard" power could be the result of something more fundamental: after two world wars and decades of deferring to Washington, continental Europe may simply no longer have the capacity to play a leadership role on the battlefield. In other words, Europe's inability to act militarily may not be the result of its military weakness or its over-reliance on soft power, but rather the cause of them. To extend Pfaff's point, soft power is not just a way for Europe to rationalize its inaction – it may be the only kind of power Europe knows how to apply.

This was never more apparent than in the months leading up to the Iraq war. Thanks to French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, it took eight weeks for the U.N. Security Council to agree on a resolution requiring Iraq to comply with existing resolutions. But resolving only to be unresolved, as Churchill once said, the French and Germans refused to authorize military action to ensure compliance.

Instead, they dispatched Hans Blix to Baghdad, where he asked Saddam Hussein to account for his arsenal of missiles and weapons of mass destruction. Recall that according to the United Nations – not the CIA – 10,000 liters of anthrax, thousands of chemical-tipped bombs and large amounts of VX nerve agent were unaccounted for. The ensuing diplomatic showdown revealed that more than an ocean separates America and the European Union. From the U.S.



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perspective, Saddam was the threat. From the French and German perspective, war itself was the threat.

Hence, when Britain and the United States returned to the United Nations for military authorization in March 2003, they found the French and German governments unwilling to compromise. In a naked bid to win re-election, Schroeder preemptively announced that Germany would oppose military action in Iraq – with or without a U.N. resolution. “We will not be part of it,” he vowed.

The French tried to make sure no one else would be a part of it either. Chirac unilaterally threatened East European governments for siding with Washington. “If they wanted to diminish their chances of joining the E.U.,” he snarled, “they couldn’t have chosen a better way.” He then dispatched his foreign minister to a dozen capitals to organize an opposition against Washington and, incredibly, rejected London’s 11th-hour compromise even before Saddam.

Lessons. Doubtless, Washington’s difficulty finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq has given Chirac and Schroeder reason to gloat. Yet in his post-war review, U.S. weapons inspector David Kay concluded that “a lot of material went to Syria before the war, including some components of Saddam’s WMD program.” Gen. James Clapper, director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, notes that prewar satellite surveillance tracked the movement of large amounts of material into Syria, leading him to conclude “unquestionably” that the Iraqi regime “decided the best thing to do was to destroy and disperse.”

In other words, Iraq was indeed in violation of U.N. resolutions. Of course, the French and German diplomatic corps knew that all along. But as George Walden, the British author and former member of Parliament, observed, “The group dynamics of diplomacy are not always the

straightest path to virtue.”

This is not to say that diplomacy has no purpose, or that “going it alone” is preferable to acting in tandem with allies. Diplomacy and the cooperation it promotes are important, as we are learning in Iraq. Some 39 countries have deployed troops to Iraq. Fully 21 of the European Union’s 25 current or future members supported the campaign in Iraq. The fact that Germany and France chose not to be among that number has more to do with them than Washington.

Even so, Washington is not blameless in this rift. By balking at, or walking away from, a number of treaties in the past decade, the Clinton and Bush administrations raised Europe’s ire. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld stoked the tensions in early 2003 by dismissing Germany and France as relics of “old Europe.” Perhaps coincidentally, perhaps not, Pentagon planners have proposed replacing America’s permanent bases in Germany with “lily-pad” bases manned by skeleton crews, or moving the bases out of Germany altogether. After the dust settled in Iraq, Washington punished Germany and France by cutting them out of lucrative postwar contracts and limiting the role of the United Nations. While this served to underscore the Bush administration’s anger, it probably hasn’t served America’s long-term interests in Iraq, which brings us back to the lessons of Tempelhof:

■ Tempelhof should remind Americans that it takes more than weapons to defeat the forces of terror and tyranny – whether they are named Stalin, Saddam or bin Laden. As Rumsfeld himself has said of the war on terror, “Victory will require that every element of American influence and power be engaged.” Military strength is part of that power, but so is diplomatic creativity. The U.S. military can crush any foe. But winning the peace requires ambidexterity, and keeping the peace requires allies. West Berlin remained free during the Cold War not only

because of America’s military might, but because of America’s willingness to work with allies.

■ Tempelhof should remind Europeans that America is a force for good in the world. What American blood secured in Europe and the Pacific in 1945, and Berlin in 1949, is the very same thing it has bought in Iraq and Afghanistan. The U.S.-led coalition has freed 26 million Afghans from the medieval Taliban and another 24 million Iraqis from Saddam’s torture chamber. It’s a shame America’s old friends are unable to see the similarities.

■ Finally, Tempelhof should remind Europeans and Americans alike of what the transatlantic alliance can achieve when united. From Berlin to Baghdad, the core of the alliance remains America’s bond with Britain. With Britain serving as a bridge, the United States and the European Union are working together to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of the terrorist regime in Iran. In Djibouti, French and American units are teaming up to dismantle al-Qaida cells throughout Africa. NATO is leading the stabilization mission in Afghanistan, with Germany contributing one of the largest contingents. And after supporting the Polish military in overseeing a swath of southern Iraq, NATO is edging toward a more direct and more permanent role in stabilizing postwar Iraq.

Iraq and its restive neighbors may not require an airlift of foodstuffs and coal, but they desperately need the moral and material support of a united transatlantic community. As Churchill warned in 1946, if America and Europe “become divided or falter in their duty, if these all-important years are allowed to slip away, then indeed catastrophe may overwhelm us all.”

The architects of the Berlin Airlift took Churchill’s warning to heart. We should do no less. 

Alan W. Dowd is a freelance writer living in Indianapolis.

Article design: Doug Rollison

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Recently, I received this letter from Brian Howe of Richmond, VA.

Sharpshooter:

A couple of weeks ago, my friend Dave and I were sitting in a duck blind. Now, this is a guy I've known practically my whole life. We've hunted duck, whitetail, elk, turkey and just about everything else in season for the last 20 years.

We're both pretty good marksmen and we love to compete with each other! We've always been even skill wise. But, this last time we went out, I noticed Dave was picking up objects a lot faster than I was. He was focusing on incoming targets and squeezing off shots faster and more precisely than ever. By the end of the day, Dave was cleaning several more birds than I was. This went on the entire weekend.

So, I finally asked him if he'd gotten laser surgery or contact lenses. I mean, his shooting accuracy had improved so much. It was incredible. He just laughed and said no. But, last November he had been on a fox hunting trip in the Cheviot Hills of Northumberland, England, and one of the guides gave him a bottle of an English supplement called Claroxan™. He told Dave that it would greatly improve his vision. In a few weeks, the guide explained, he would be able to pick up, focus, and lock in on moving objects faster than he ever dreamed of.

Anyway, now Dave boasts about having the secret edge, and I don't like it one bit! Have you heard of this Claroxan™ stuff?

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Another tour

Conventional wisdom suggests that the unstable, unpredictable situation in Iraq should trigger a decline in re-enlistment numbers for the Army, but that conventional wisdom is wrong. Even in the midst of the bloodiest, deadliest month of guerrilla fighting

in Iraq, the Army exceeded its mid-year goal for retention: 28,377 troops re-enlisted, bringing the target number of 56,100 by the end of the fiscal year well within reach. Only the 82nd Airborne fell short of its mid-year goal – and only by 85.

As Lt. Col. Franklin Childress told the Associated Press, "It's a very positive retention picture at this point." Positive and surprising. Some Army divisions have been deployed virtually nonstop in recent years. For example, key units of the 101st Airborne were deployed to



Afghanistan for seven months during autumn and winter 2001 and spring 2002. After a brief respite back home at Fort Campbell, the division then spent a year in Iraq beginning in March 2003. Yet, the 101st eclipsed its mid-year recruiting goals.

Some attribute the high re-enlistment rates to America's shaky job market, others to the high-dollar bonuses shelled out by the Pentagon, but an equally important factor is patriotism. The troops re-enlisting in the war zones of south-central Iraq and eastern Afghanistan simply will not leave their buddies – their country – in the middle of a fight. As one colonel on leave from Iraq said, it's something special to take or administer the re-enlistment oath within earshot of enemy fire.

– A.W.D.



Mounir al-Motassadek of Morocco leaves court in Hamburg, Germany, pending retrial on charges of aiding the plane hijackers in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States. AP

With friends like these ...

The only person convicted in the Sept. 11 attacks has been released on bail by a German court. Mounir al-Motassadek was serving a 15-year sentence for his role in planning the attacks, as part of a German-based al-Qaida cell. But the German court, in effect preempting a retrial scheduled for summer, concluded that the earlier conviction would not hold up.

Americans and Germans alike are all for due process and fair trials, but as State Department official Adam Ereli put it, "Given the seriousness of the charges, it

would have been preferable to keep him under detention."

Motassadek's al-Qaida cell spawned three of the Sept. 11 hijackers. To beat the rap, his lawyers cleverly argued that the testimony of another terrorist – Ramzi Binalshibh, who is being detained in the United States – exonerates Motassadek. Binalshibh claims that Motassadek knew nothing about the Sept. 11 attacks. But wouldn't Binalshibh have motive to lie about his partner in mass murder and thus spring him from prison? After all, he's of no use to al-Qaida behind bars.

Hypersonic history

NASA has successfully tested a so-called "hypersonic" plane. Dropped from the wing of a modified B-52 bomber, the unmanned X-43A tore across the skies above the Pacific Ocean at 5,000 mph. That's more than double the top speed of the now-retired SR-71 reconnaissance plane, which set the previous mark for a jet at around 2,100 mph. As *The Los Angeles Times* detailed in its post-flight analysis, "hypersonic" speeds are defined as "exceeding five times the speed of sound."

NASA and the Pentagon have been exploring hypersonic speed for decades. In fact, the Reagan administration initially earmarked \$2.3 billion for the hypersonic program before canceling it. However, as the *Times* noted, new technologies that allow air to be pushed through a jet engine at a super-fast rate of speed – thus preventing overheating – have brought hypersonic flight within reach at a fraction of the cost. NASA built a trio of X-43A missile-planes for less than \$230 million.

The first was lost during a test flight in 2001. The second made history in 2004.

– Alan W. Dowd

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BY DR. MINDY AISEN

Television coverage of the Iraq war may be the first time most of us have seen American women serving in combat. Yet for more than 200 years, women have played other critical roles in our nation's military conflicts. Today, an increasing number of women are choosing careers in the military, and the number of women veterans is rising steadily.

The United States now has more than 1.4 million female veterans. Our nation has more than 200,000 women on active duty and an even greater number in the National Guard and reserves. By 2010, women likely will comprise more than 10 percent of the veteran population. In response, VA has increased its emphasis on women's health care.

Women Veterans Program. Although they have a long history of service and sacrifice for our country, women historically have not received the same benefits or care as male veterans. Increasing recognition of women's contributions to our defense led VA to establish its Women Veterans Health Program in 1985. Legislation passed in 1992 helped VA enhance its programs for

women, creating top-level programs and facilities that focus on women's health care. Medical services include primary care, reproductive health and maternity care, counseling and treatment for PTSD, sexual trauma, substance abuse and domestic violence, preventive screening for

For more info

Women with questions about VA health care or benefits may call toll-free (800) 827-1000, or contact any local VA medical center.

See also www1.va.gov/womenvet



War in Iraq has raised awareness of the growing number of women on active duty or in the reserves and the fast-growing female veteran population. *U.S. Army*

breast cancer, cervical cancer and osteoporosis, vocational rehabilitation, programs for the homeless and research.

VA remains committed to ensuring that female veterans receive the benefits they have earned. The Center for Women Veterans in Washington conducts educational activities to inform women about programs and services available to them. At every VA medical center, a women

veterans program manager helps women to understand their benefits and coordinate their care. The manager works as an advocate

for women veterans and usually has a background in nursing, social work or psychology.

In addition, VA has eight comprehensive health centers focusing on the special needs of women veterans at VA medical facilities in Minnesota, Florida, northern California, southern California,

North Carolina, Illinois, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

A division of the VA National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder studies the impact of military trauma on women veterans. Based at the Boston VA Medical Center, the women's health-science division conducts research designed to improve the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD in women and provides training for health-care professionals working with the disorder.

Research Targets Women. The VA research program devotes substantial resources to studies of diseases and conditions prevalent among women. New strategies for treatment and prevention may result from VA scientists' discovery that antibodies are present years before symptoms develop in lupus erythematosus, which affects mostly women. Another team of researchers identified a synthetic estrogen that reverses bone loss in mice without harming the reproductive system, as does regular hormone-replacement therapy. The finding may lead to treatments to prevent osteoporosis, which affects 10 million Americans – 80 percent of whom are women. An ongoing study compares two types of psychotherapy for treating PTSD in women.

American women have served alongside men in armed conflict for more than 200 years, and now they are formally a part of our combat forces. They have earned, and will continue to earn, the best care VA can provide.

Mindy Aisen, M.D., is deputy director of research and development for the Veterans Health Administration.

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their personal physicians when they have health problems.

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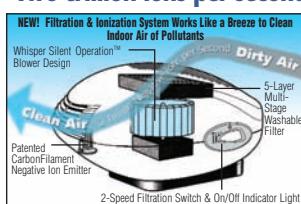
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living well

PTSD study seeks women

If you are a current or former military woman who suffers from nightmares, flashbacks, anxiety or relationship difficulties, the Department of Veterans Affairs wants to know more about you.

VA is recruiting nearly 400 women who exhibit symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder to test two kinds of psychotherapy for the condition. The study, being conducted through 2005 at one Army hospital and 10 VA medical centers nationwide, is the largest-ever clinical trial of psychotherapy for PTSD. The \$5 million project also is the first multisite VA clinical trial focusing exclusively on women.

PTSD is a psychiatric disorder that affects more than 5 million Americans annually, and some 30 percent of war veterans. Women are twice more likely than men to get PTSD, which

occurs after a frightening event, such as violent assault, natural disaster or military combat, is experienced or witnessed.

The VA study is comparing two types of cognitive behavioral therapy: prolonged exposure therapy, in which patients repeatedly relive traumatic experiences through controlled conditions to help them work through it; and present-centered therapy, which provides emotional support and helps patients cope with current problems. Prior research has yielded promising results for both treatments. In addition to psychotherapy, antidepressants and anti-anxiety medications have proved beneficial.

Up to 25 percent of women who served in the Vietnam War and Gulf War developed PTSD, says Paula Schnurr, deputy director of VA's National Center for PTSD.

Approximately 216,000 women are currently on active duty, with another 151,000 in the reserves, says Schnurr, co-chairperson of the study.

Women interested in participating in the study should call (802) 291-6225 for further information. All eligible women will receive 10 weeks of free psychotherapy from a trained female therapist and take part in interviews several times during the study.

Participating sites include VA medical centers in Albuquerque, N.M.; Atlanta; Baltimore; Boston; Cincinnati; Cleveland; Dallas; Denver; New Orleans; Portland, Ore.; and Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. VA and the Department of Defense jointly fund the study.

Source: Department of Veterans Affairs

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Accidental Discovery of Mysterious “Gold Rush” Coin Stuns Experts

World's Rarest U.S. \$20 Gold Proof Found: The San Francisco Mint 1854 Double Eagle Proof!

WASHINGTON, D.C.—A one-of-a-kind U.S. Treasury gold proof coin has been accidentally discovered within the vaults of the Smithsonian Institution. This 1854-S gold Double Eagle \$20 coin was struck by the San Francisco Mint in its first year of operation. The San Francisco Mint was born out of the need for a Western Frontier Mint when, in January of 1848, gold flakes were discovered at Sutter's Mill triggering one of the most important chapters in U.S. History—The California Gold Rush! To the surprise of historians, this single “S” mint Proof coin was individually struck from specially polished minting dies. How this unique Proof Double Eagle made its way across the continent and then into the hands of the Smithsonian Institution is an unsolved mystery to this day.

Today the First Federal Mint announces the public release of the first ever gold Proof commemorative honoring this rarest U.S. Government \$20 gold piece. This 10mil gold Proof has a frosted image against a deep mirror field, creating a breathtaking work of art in gold. This 150th anniversary Mint release honors the legacy of a true historic masterpiece.

The magnificent 10mil gold proof measures a full 39mm diameter to truly showcase the beauty and intricacy of this legendary coin design. The 10mil gold proof is available only through this limited edition, private release from the First Federal Mint at the advance issue price of \$19.95 each.

Fabulous Rarity Valued at \$12 Million.

Only one original proof coin is known to have been struck. Even the foremost rare coin experts were unaware of its existence until it was accidentally found



deep in the vaults of the museum. America's foremost authority on U.S. gold coins, David Akers, has written, “the 1854-S Double Eagle is easily the most significant and desirable branch mint proof coin in existence”. With the recent auction sale of one of the three 1933 St. Gaudens Double Eagles for \$7.9 million, senior numismatist Nicholas Bruyer estimates the unique 1854-S Proof Double Eagle would bring at least \$12 million if it ever becomes available at auction.

The “Gold Rush” Coin.

2004 marks the 150th anniversary of this historic mint striking. The First Federal Mint is

releasing this collectors quality 10mil gold Gem Proof to honor the legend, lore and legacy of the 1854-S Double Eagle!

Special Discount for Advance Orders.

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Military and veteran voters can unite online

The American Legion is now opening up an unprecedented dialogue between military personnel and veteran voters, and candidates for federal offices, including presidential nominees George W. Bush and John Kerry. The effort – called “Impact 2004” – urges America’s veterans to become informed and seek answers from candidates on such issues as VA health care, the disabled veterans tax, national defense, homeland security and the flag-protection amendment.

During the Legion’s 44th Washington Conference in March, National Commander John Brieden launched the Legion’s “Impact 2004: Military & Veterans Vote” campaign. The goals:

- Emphasize the importance of voting and encourage all military personnel, veterans and their families to vote either at the polls in November or by absentee ballot.
- Educate veterans and those serving now to ask the right questions of their candidates about issues of direct concern to them and cast informed, responsible ballots in the November general election.
- Encourage American Legion posts to actively participate in the 2004 general election as commu-

nity leaders of pre-election forums or debates, and to drive voter turnout.

- Direct military personnel to the voter registration site, ssl.capwiz.com/congressorg/e4/nvra, so they can register in time for the November election.
- Influence candidates to understand and commit themselves to the interests of veterans and military personnel between now and the election.

On May 15, Armed Forces Day, the Legion activated its election Web site, www.impact04.legion.org. Advertise-

ments in military publications and special coverage in *The American Legion Magazine* will drive voters to the Impact 2004 Web site to select issues for which they seek answers from Bush and Kerry. Responses from the campaigns will be posted as well. The Web site also will provide links to voter resources, including information for military personnel seeking to vote and a link to the Legislative Action Center, www.legion.org,

where visitors can enter their ZIP codes and review the voting records of their senators and representatives. The site also includes contact information for local candidates’ campaigns.

To further educate and energize voters, *The American Legion Magazine* will dedicate its September issue to election coverage. A

“voters guide” will include commentaries from House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi.

The Web site offers information on:

- Attracting media to voter information events.
- Maintaining

Legion nonpartisanship.

- Increasing voter turnout.
- Making sure veteran and military issues are addressed by candidates.
- Setting forth The American Legion positions.
- Urging candidates to take pro-veteran and pro-military positions.

Further information will be available at the Impact 2004 booth during the Legion’s 2004 National Convention in Nashville.

Agent Orange committee seeks data

In response to a congressional mandate, the National Academy of Science’s Institute of Medicine continues to evaluate scientific data regarding association between exposure to dioxin-containing herbicides used in Vietnam and adverse health conditions of Vietnam War veterans. Although the IOM does not make compensation decisions, the Department of Veterans Affairs considers the IOM findings when making compensation decisions. Updates are conducted every two years.

The most recent committee to undertake such a review, the Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides, will have

For more info

For reservations, contact Joe Esparza:

(202) 334-2652

jesparza@nas.edu

For information about Agent Orange exposure, visit:

www.iom.edu

(Click on “Military & Veterans.” Type “Agent Orange” in “Search” field.)

an open meeting July 7 at the Hyatt on Capitol Square hotel in Columbus, Ohio, to hear veterans’ concerns and presentations on recent epidemiological studies. The committee will not present any findings or conclusions during the data-gathering meeting.

Grant passes away

The American Legion lost a longtime national leader May 3. World War II Navy veteran U.S. “Udie”



Grant of Post 24, Department of Kansas, passed away at age 80. A 58-year member of his post in McPherson, Kan., Grant filled numerous Legion department and national offices, including serving as a member of the National Executive Committee from 1966 to 2004 and as National Child Welfare Foundation president from 1986 to 2004. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Jean, and two sons.

Georgia teen wins oratorical contest

"Wake up, stand up and speak up!"

With that admonition, Philip Bishop, 18, of Albany, Ga., earned the title of American Legion oratorical champion for 2004 and an \$18,000 college scholarship. The 67th annual contest took place in April at the University Place Conference Center and Hotel on the campus of Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis.

Bishop, a senior at Deerfield Windsor School, edged out Sherif Girgis of Dover, Del., and Hannah Smith of Bethpage, Tenn. Girgis earned a \$16,000 scholarship and Smith a \$14,000 scholarship. Bishop was sponsored by Albany, Ga., Walter H. Burt Post 30. Girgis was sponsored by Dover, Del., Walter L. Fox Post 2, and Smith was sponsored by Portland, Tenn., Post 75.

After the first round of the competition narrowed the field from 53 contestants to nine, the afternoon round brought the number of finalists to three.

Bishop anchored his speech on the opportunity the U.S. Constitution gives to every citizen by noting that even in America, "there



Philip W. Bishop of Albany, Ga., earned first place at The American Legion's National Oratorical Contest in April with his speech "Wake Up, Stand Up and Speak Up!"

James V. Carroll

is the freedom to do nothing.

"The young people of America must create, build and energize an understanding of our Constitu-

tion's true spirit," he said. "I cannot defend our society as being perfect, but I have an obligation to make it better."

He used the illustration of an Indiana farmer, Henry Shoemaker, whose ballot in the 1800s managed to elect a state representative by one vote. The representative was Madison Marsh. In 1843, Marsh cast the single deciding ballot that elected Edward Hannegan to the U.S. Senate from Indiana.

"Three years later, a sharply divided U.S. Senate was debating whether to declare war on Mexico," Bishop said. "A caucus vote was deadlocked until the absent Sen. Hannegan was summoned. He cast his ballot in favor of war. One of the results was that California changed hands from Mexico to the United States. Henry Shoemaker had no idea what impact his vote would make that day. Now that you know, never assume that your one vote does not count."

Bishop is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bishop of Albany. He plans to attend Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Ga., where he will study mass media.

'Race to the Top' winners announced

The American Legion has announced the winners in the 2004 "Race to the Top" competition. The top district commander in each category whose district memberships represented the greatest percentage over the final 2003 totals on March 31 won a trip, along with their guests, to the National World War II Memorial Dedication activities in Washington. The following award winners were guests of National Commander John Brieden:

- Category I (15 to 1,499 members) – Lee Buchschacher, Department of Tennessee, 10th District, 121.74 percent
- Category II (1,500 to 2,999 members) – Johnny E. Poole,

For more info

Contact Bill Sloan, American Legion Internal Affairs and Membership Division:

(317) 630-1321

wsloan@legion.org

Department of North Carolina, 18th District, 108.13 percent

■ Category III (3,000 to 4,999 members) – Harry Hicks, Department of Texas, 16th District, 109.59 percent

■ Category IV (5,000 to 7,499 members) – Willie Reynolds, Department of Georgia, 5th District, 108.32 percent

The trip included round-trip airfare, rooms at the Mayflower Renaissance Hotel, and tickets to

the National Prayer Breakfast and other events leading up to the dedication ceremony.

The competition also provided gift cards of up to \$500 in value to the following district commanders who placed second and third in their categories: Dale Salmen, Department of Nevada, 5th District; Lyman R. Brenner, Department of Delaware, 2nd District; Al Sanders, Department of Louisiana, 5th District; Bob Keaveny, Department of Idaho, 3rd District; Paul Sleep, Department of Georgia, 7th District; Jack Strayer, Department of Delaware, 4th District; Eugene O'Grady, Department of New Jersey, 15th District; and Ellis Manis, Department of Georgia, 9th District.

Photos sought for The Virtual Wall

Almost three years ago, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and Kinko's launched the "Put a Face with a Name" campaign to collect one photograph for each of the more than 58,000 men and women whose names are inscribed on The Wall in Washington.

More than 2,500 photographs were collected for the permanent online photo collection on The Virtual Wall during the four-month campaign.

Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, says, "The 'Put a Face with a Name' campaign displays the magnitude of those killed in Vietnam and also shows that each of those servicemembers was a human being who was cut down in the prime of life, protecting the American values of democracy and freedom. We are committed to creating a complete online experience, featuring photographs of all whose lives were lost in Vietnam."

Anyone who wishes to post a



photo of a loved one or fellow veteran whose name appears on The Wall is encouraged to do so. Photos may be posted by using one of the following methods:

- Scan and upload photos. Visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Web site at www.vvmf.org. Click on Virtual Wall, then "Put a Name"

For more info

Contact the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
(202) 393-0090
vvmf@vvmf.org

include the information mentioned above as well as the sender's mailing address so the photo can be returned. Mail the information and photograph to:

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund,
Attn: "Put a Face with a Name," 1023 15th St. N.W., Second Floor, Washington, D.C., 20005.

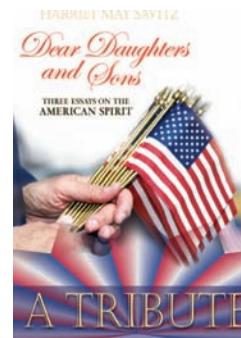
Books benefit scholarship fund

Proceeds from a book written to honor America's servicemembers will benefit The American Legion's American Legacy Scholarship Fund. "Dear Daughters and Sons: Three Essays on the American Spirit," written by Harriet May Savitz, includes three essays that encourage readers to reflect on what it means to be an American.

"I have lived in America for all of my 70 years," Savitz writes in her introduction. "I have loved this country for all that time. I have loved it when it was bright with hope and bleak with despair. I have

loved it when it was right and in spite of the times it was wrong. And now I want to share that love in the only way I know how: through words."

Savitz has written more than 21 books. She is a contributing author of the "Chicken Soup" series, a co-founder of the Philadelphia Children's Reading Roundtable and a recipient of the 1981 Pennsylvania Outstanding Author Award.



To purchase

(609) 398-5252
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Cost: \$4.95 per copy

Fifty cents from each book sold will be donated to the Legion's American Legacy Scholarship Fund. The fund provides scholarships to the children of U.S. military personnel who died on active duty on or after Sept. 11, 2001.

How to Submit a Reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are published free of charge.

Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year. Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other Notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim. Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, tele-

phone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish the names of individuals, only the name of the unit from which you seek people. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life memberships by their posts. This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership. Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**.

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**. Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE/ARMY AIR FORCE

12th Bomb Grp 12th Tact Ftr Wing 12th Flying Tng Wing (All Eras), Omaha, NE, 9/22-26, Wilbur "Andy" Anderson, (919) 736-3711, wanderson6@nc.rr.com; **13th AF**, Springfield, MO, 10/6-10, Al Wright, (918) 396-1380; **19th Bombardment Assn 14th, 28th, 30th, 38th, 93rd & 435th Sqdns**, Philadelphia, 10/4-9, Jerry Michael, (317) 253-9265, g.michael@sbcglobal.net; **22nd Rescue Boat Sqdn (Korea)**, San Diego, 10/14-17, Joe Connor, (843) 552-4035, jjc@aol.com; **31st Ftr Officers Assn**, Biloxi, MS, 10/21-24, Rocky Eubank, (512) 282-1077, rockyeub@aol.com; **36th Air Police Sqk 9 (Bitburg AFB, Germany, 1959-1965)**, San Antonio, 9/30-10/5, Jim Yarsevich, (518) 371-4892, jimyarsevich@hotmail.com; **43rd Bomb Grp (H) 63rd, 64th, 65th & 403rd Sqdns 5th AF**, Tampa, FL, 9/13-19, Charles Rauch, (941) 639-6421, crauch5@comcast.net

46th, 72nd Recon Sqdns, Fort Walton Beach, FL, 10/21-24, Edward Goetz, (850) 837-1967, egoezt@bsc.net; **49th Ftr Grp**, Las Vegas, 10/20-24, Doug Melzer, (909) 733-4957; **58th Bomb Wing Assn (WWII)**, Bellingham, WA, 9/7-12, Earl Lind, (360) 424-7746; **91st Bomb Grp Washington**, 9/29-10/1, Ed Gates, (817) 251-3551, raycasey@hotmail.com; **303rd Stat Hosp (England, WWII)**, North Olmstad, OH, 9/24-25, Rita Henne, (216) 671-7884; **312th Bomb Grp Assn**, Washington, 9/29-10/2, John Happy, (863) 439-6657, jhappy@juno.com; **315th Bomb Wing VH (Northwest Field, Guam)**, Wichita, KS, 9/7-12, Bev Green, (217) 893-3197; **315th Trp Carrier Grp (All Sqdns & Support Units, WWII)**, Louisville, KY, 9/22-26, Robert Cloer, (530) 674-3681, rclcloer@syixy.com; **316th Trp Carrier Sqdn (WWII)**, Atlantic City, NJ, 10/5-8, Russell Drabold Jr., (856) 299-0452, russelljr2@msn.com

376th Bomb Grp (H) B-24 "Liberandos" & 58th Serv Sqdn (North Africa & Italy, WWII), Covington, KY, 9/8-12, Charlie Yates, (817) 292-5900, b24pres376bg@yahoo.com; **379th Bomb Grp (H) (Kimbolton, England, WWII)**, Dayton, OH, 9/7-11, T. Cabanski, (303) 697-6265, cabanskit@aol.com; **397th Bomb Grp B-26 Marauders**, Dayton, OH, 9/29-10/2, Ernest Lutz, (517) 676-4601; **401st Bomb Grp (H) 8th AF (WWII)**, Braintree, MA, 8/17-21, George Menzel, (912) 598-0276; **417th Bomb Grp**, Washington, 9/16-20, Robert Kunselman, (719) 574-4818, rka17bg@juno.com; **463rd Bomb Grp "Swoose" Grp**, Oak Brook, IL, 10/27-30, Art Mendelsohn, (818) 790-3722; **502nd Tact Cont Grp 605th, 606th, 607th and 608th AC&W Sqdns (Korean War)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/26-29, Bill Aylward, (703) 715-0448, wwaylward@netscape.net; **526th Ftr Sqdn (All Eras)**, Las Vegas,

9/26-30, Wayne Rebischke, 5780 Canterbury Ave, N.E., Buffalo, MN 55313, wkrebs@att.net; **529th, 623rd, 624th & 851st AC&W Sqdns (Okinawa)**, 9/26-10/1, Las Vegas, Jim Melton, (765) 395-7881, redwings1939@aol.com; **568th Ord Heavy Maint Co (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Atlanta, 10/7-10, Herb Peppers, (615) 883-1417, hpeppers@aol.com; **604th, 616th AC&W Sqdn (Freising, Germany)**, Las Vegas, 10/19-21, Mike Torma, (219) 872-5539, miketorma@yahoo.com; **610th, 618th & 850th AC&W Sqdns 527th AC&W Grp (Japan)**, Branson, MO, 9/12-15, Marvin Jordahl, (904) 739-9337, jordahlmarvin@comcast.net; **874th, 875th Abn Eng**, Dekalb, IL, 9/16-19, Ken Snyder, (616) 754-4558; **1625th Support Sqdn (Mil Airlift Trans Serv)**, Lillian, AL, 10/22-24, Ilene Brown, (251) 961-3506, ilene@gulfotel.com; **2152nd Comm Sqdn (Okinawa)**, Las Vegas, 9/26-10/1, Jim Melton, (765) 395-7881, redwings1939@aol.com

AC-119 Gunship Assn, Dayton, OH, 10/1-3, Ron Julian, (937) 848-4064, takitus@email.com; **B-47 Stratojet Assn**, Dayton, OH, 9/23-25, Dick Purdum, (402) 291-5247, dickpurdum@cox.net; **B-66 Dest (All Models, Sqdns, Personnel)**, Dayton, OH, 8/26-28, Jim Milam, (817) 545-3554, jimmilam@aol.com; **WWII AAF Pilots Centre College AF College Tng Grads**, Danville, KY, 10/22-23, Bud Semelroth, (586) 978-9679, budandethel@peoplepc.com; **China-Burma-India Hump Pilots (WWII)**, Denver, 9/8-12, Peyton Walmsley, (806) 331-1160; Det 1 **3rd Air Rescue Sqdn (Korea, 1951-1952)**, Branson, MO, 6/7-9, Bill Price, (205) 339-0960, wprice@bellsouth.net; **Hahn AB (Germany)**, Branson, MO, 9/30-10/3, Peg Haver, (207) 212-6902, hahnnote4peg@hotmail.com; **Johnson AB (Japan)**, Branson, MO, 10/7-10, Claude Clawson, (740) 342-0138, budclaw@msn.com

North Vietnamese Language School Def Language Institute Tng School Det 2 (Biggs Field, Fort Bliss, TX, 1969), El Paso, TX, 6/24-27, hibbard@tigerpaw.com; **Pilot Class 43-D**, Eureka Springs, AR, 10/7-10, Frank Dutko, (850) 932-3467, duke43d@hotmail.com; **Pilot Class 43-E**, San Diego, 10/13-16, K.C. Grove, (818) 989-1667; **Pilot Class 43-K (All Schools, Tng Cmds)**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/15-19, Tom Schuler, (513) 539-7185, tschuler@siscom.net; **Silver Wings/Powder Puff**, Hebron, KY, 9/15-18, Don Fairbanks, (513) 732-5852

ARMY

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Army Amph Eng Spec Bde, 10/5-8, R. Tighe, (810) 364-8849; **1st FA Obsn Bn (WWII, Korea)**, Milwaukee, 10/7-10, Ralph Mueller, (724) 348-5359; **2nd Indianhead Div/Korean War Vets Alliance**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/8-11, Ray Pelishek, (608)

783-3501; **3rd Bn 18th FA (1960-2004)**, Lawton, OK, 9/15-18, Charles Martin, (918) 224-5959, martincharles@abcglobal.net; **3rd Cbt Eng**, Albuquerque, NM, 9/19-21, Don Lloyd, 6804 Occidental, Yakima, WA, dotandon@nwinfo.net; **6th Heli & 150th Maint (Korea, 1953)**, Chicago, 9/9-12, Warren Smith, (563) 659-3384; **7th Armd Div**, Harrisburg, PA, 9/9-13, Charles Barry, (814) 333-8051, cbarry@zoominternet.net; **7th FA Obsn Bn**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 10/4-9, Charles Wright, (812) 925-6207; **8th Armd "Thundering Herd"**, Baton Rouge, LA, 7/14-17, Sidney Bishop, (865) 475-2883, sbb8th@mail.bellsouth.net; **11th Armd Cav (Vietnam, Cambodia)**, Daytona Beach, FL, 8/6-8, Stephen Page, 396 Pleasant St., Holyoke, MA 01040, www.11thcavnam.com; **15th Constab Sqdn**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/16-18, John Howard, (502) 875-4498

16th Armd Div, Dayton, OH, 9/13-19, Edward Krusheski, (609) 978-0490, ed16armor@aol.com; **17th Armd Eng Bn 2nd Armd Div**, Houston, 8/11-14, John Shields, (724) 287-4301; **21st Evac Hosp (WWII)**, Plymouth, IN, 8/5-7, Robert Murphy, (760) 728-7245, rgbmurphy1@adelphia.net; **25th Inf Div 8th FA Bn (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Tucson, AZ, 9/28-10/3, Allen Smith, (612) 529-4567; **27th FA Rgt**, Nashville, TN, 8/13-15, James Seussmann, (973) 357-0033, jrs.cpa@verizon.net; **34th Eng Bn Const (WWII-1986)**, Branson, MO, 7/29-31, Bryan Jackson, (706) 517-4307; **39th AAA (AW) Bn (U.S. & England, 1948-1958)**, Las Vegas, 9/8-12, Kenn Hampton, (719) 636-2532; **39th Cbt Eng 404th, 643rd Bns (WWII)**, Paul Knudson, (563) 242-2618; **44th Inf Div (1951-1954)**, Peoria, IL, 10/14-17, Charles Munie, (217) 423-6265, camunie@aol.com

45th Div 180th Inf 1st Bn D Co, Shawnee, OK, 9/13-18, Ted King, (405) 275-7765; **51st Gen Hosp (WWII)**, Madison, WI, 9/22-24, William Peters, (608) 764-5590, whpeters@charter.net; **68th Sig Bn**, Washington, 8/20-22, Mike Biloz, (239) 731-6965, mpbiloz52@msn.com; **73rd AAA AW Bn SP (Karlsruhe, Germany, 1951-1955)**, Fredericksburg, VA, 9/7-11, Raymond Webb, (540) 775-0452, aflacshawks@datacruz.com; **78th Eng Cbt Bn**, St. Augustine, FL, 10/24-26, Bob Anglea, (706) 234-4201, bobanglea@comcast.net; **79th Div 314th Inf Rgt 79th Recon Trp**, Pigeon Forge, TN, 9/23-26, Joe Campbell, (423) 245-8304, joewcee@aol.com; **79th Div 1st Inf Rgt (WWII)**, St. Charles, MO, 9/2-5, Les Brantingham, (269) 657-3078; **85th Chem 4.2 Mortar Bn**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/6-10, R.L. Grogan, (843) 357-8421; **86th Recon 6th Armd Div (WWII)**, Louisville, KY, 10/14-17, Charles Barbour, 4342 Aqua Vista, Orlando, FL 32839, mr86recon@mindspring.com; **90th**

comrades|

Div, Alexandria, VA, 9/9-12, James Reid, (630) 789-0204, reids@90thdivisionassociation.org; **91st AAA AW Bn HQ Btry (Ludwigsburg, Germany, 1951-1954)**, Branson, MO, 10/12-13, Willard Edwards, (816) 587-5664; **91st AAA HQ Btry (Ludwigsburg, Germany)**, Branson, MO, 10/12-13, Dave Wilkinson, (317) 861-9168; **92nd AFA Bn "Red Devils" (Korea)**, Knoxville, TN, 9/26-28, Guy McMenemy, 12027 Westover Drive, Cypress, TX 77429, reddevilbn@aol.com; **92nd Inf Div (WWII)**, Rockville, MD, 10/8-10, Howard Fletcher, (301) 622-2179; **94th Sig Bn**, Merrillville, IN, 9/21-23, Stanley Lesniak, (219) 345-4788; **103rd Inf Div (WWII)**, Schaumburg, IL, 10/6-9, Richard Ball, (703) 671-9017; **106th Inf Div "Golden Lions,"** Milwaukee, 9/1-5, Marion Ray, (618) 377-3674, raybugleboy@charter.net

147th Eng, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/22-25, Bob Norwood, (317) 787-5113; **148th Ord MVA Co (WWII)**, Davenport, IA, 9/20-24, Jerome Paulson, (712) 867-4432, jercor@webtv.net; **157th Inf, Denver**, 9/8-12, Hugh Foster, (717) 249-6219, hfoster3@earthlink.net; **159th Eng Cbt Bn (WWII)**, Knoxville, TN, 9/9-12, Kenneth Boring, (706) 226-7625; **164th Inf Assn**, Valley City, ND, 9/24-26, Bernard Wagner, (701) 845-0799, bernie@csicable.net; **191st Sig Repair Co (1943-1945)**, Grand Rapids, MI, 9/29-10/1, Ken Maatman, (616) 949-5576; **242nd FA Bn (WWII)**, Kearney, NE, 8/15, C.R. Anthony, (308) 324-2791, anthonyfarm@cozadtel.net; **264th FA Bn (WWII)**, Florence, KY, 8/19-21, Bob Lutz, (330) 493-4657, favet@mindspring.com; **283rd Eng Cbt Bn (WWII)**, Galveston, TX, 10/13-16, LaVerne Gallatin, (512) 707-9766, phicks@ev1.net; **304th Sig Ops Bn**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/15-18, Wayne Mueller, (219) 762-2405

321st Sig Bn, Biloxi, MS, 11/4-4, Donald Romig, (504) 835-1024, jmromig@earthlink.net; **356th AAA Searchlight Bn (WWII)**, Georgetown, KY, 10/7-10, Elmer Peters, (712) 659-3684; **385th MP Bn C Co (Karlsruhe, Germany, 1965-1968)**, Kansas City, MO, 10/1-3, Cecil Roberts, (972) 620-9982, crr4@academicplanet.com; **430th Eng Bn**, Nashville, TN, 9/9-11, Nick Sloan, nsloan26@comcast.net; **449th FA Obsn Bn**, Kinston, NC, 10/1-2, Marvin Creech, creechme@earthlink.net; **471st AAA AW Bn**, Appleton, WI, 9/21-23, Austin Peck, (636) 225-9049, acpeck1@juno.com; **472nd AAA AW Bn (WWII)**, Cincinnati, 10/14-16, Ray Kuntz, (513) 797-4390, gpbineau1@maine.rr.com; **511th, 153rd Trans Port Cos (Korea & Eniwetok, 1950-1951)**, Reading, PA, 9/5, John "Jack" Dunkelberger, (610) 929-1972; **533rd, 534th Eng Boat & Shore Rgts**, Fort Mitchell, KY, 10/5-8, Robert Jarvis, (313) 823-0854

553rd Eng Heavy Ponton Bn (WWII), Green Bay, WI, 8/27-28, Allie O'Connell, (920) 438-7886; **557th FA Bn (WWII)**, Lynn, MA, 10/2, Bruno Stadnicki, (413) 594-4555; **569th AAA AW Bn (WWII)**, Portland, ME, 9/17-19, John Bradshaw, (401) 884-5674, apo569@cox.net; **605th Tank Dest Bn**, Findlay, OH, 9/4-6, Lawrence Montgomery, (269) 685-8729, monty605@mymicdo.com; **630th AAA AW Bn (WWII)**, Santa Cruz, CA, 10/6-9, Joe Watt, (831) 338-2079; **630th Eng (LE)**, Branson, MO, 9/16-19, Cecilia Brown, (731) 415-6460, brownlinda13@aol.com; **709th MP Bn (All Cos, Era)**, Lancaster, PA, 9/9-12, Robert Zeller, (717) 397-2038, rpzeller@earthlink.net; **765th TRSB (Korea)**, Groton, CT, 10/16-20, Billy Hill, (423) 942-2644; **780th FA Bn**, Springfield, IL, 9/16-18, George Ellis, (256) 764-5938, gienodfdc@aol.com; **790th QM Reclamation & Maint Co (US & Korea)**, Appleton, WI, 10/9, Clarence Smits, (920) 738-0503, cgsmitjuno.com; **801st Eng Bn (Avn)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/12-14, Bill Dowd, (563) 569-8291, sjdowd@rconnect.com; **807th Eng Bn (Avn)**, Tucson, AZ, 10/14-16, Melvin Anderson, (520) 325-1471; **820th EAB (Beale AFB, CA, 1952-1954)**, Nashville, TN, 9/30-10/2,

Bob Shamber, (713) 473-5015, schamber@pdq.net; **836th Eng Avn Bn**, Tulsa, OK, 9/10-12, Harry Bennett, (918) 446-7313; **838th AAA AW Bn**, Baraboo, WI, 10/13-17, Lee Bast, (847) 587-7706; **841st Eng Avn Bn**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/20-24, Jack Murphy, (239) 997-9940, jandj33903@aol.com; **3483rd Ord MAM Co (WWII)**, Nashville, TN, Sept, Doris Luther, (615) 459-2974, Charles Pomnitzi, (313) 881-0601; **8125th Sentry Dog Det (Korea, 1954-1955)**, Branson, MO, 10/14-18, E.E. Rath, (402) 571-7680; **ASA 8607 DU 7th Field Unit (Wildwood Stat, AK)**, Wildwood, VA, 10/15-16, Jack Paugh, (540) 943-5159, jlpa@telos.net; **ASA COMSEC/SIGSEC**, Baltimore/Washington, 8/5-9, Dave Hatfield, (410) 5501-6733

ASA Pacific, Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/16-18, Harold Rumery, 535 Hunters Drive, Carmel, IN 46032; **Cbt Infantrymens Assn**, Louisville, KY, 10/7-10, Larry Eckard, (828) 256-6008, larrymlrs@charterinternet.com; **Field Stat 8607 (Fairbanks/Wildwood Stat, AK)**, Bloomington, MN, 8/11-12, Robert Kaul, rkaul5@cox.net; **GHQ 1st Raider Co**, Nashville, TN, 8/18-20, M. Lee Broussard, (337) 394-4994; **HQ & HQ Co VII Corps (WWII)**, Memphis, TN, 10/5-8, Hal Cowart, (901) 759-4657, elscowa@aol.com; **K Co 386th Inf Rgt 97th Inf Div (WWII)**, Springfield, MO, 10/3-7, Robert Garrett, (573) 333-0174; **Mortuary Affairs/Graves Regist**, Fort Lee, VA, 9/16-17, Doug Howard, (804) 734-3831, howardd@lee.army.mil; **Natl Counter-Intel Corps Assn**, Louisville, KY, 9/9-12, A.J. Malme, (585) 243-0819; **SHAEF/ETOUSA Vets Assn (WWII)**, San Francisco, 10/8-10, Charles Long, (703) 938-2527, chasveralang@att.net; **X Corps & Related Units 4th Sig Bn (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Dubuque, IA, 9/16-19, William Shafer, (319) 934-3575, crows@netins.net

COAST GUARD

Bering Sea Patrol/Alaskan Vets, Niagara Falls, Canada, 9/27-30, Marty Kimmel, (905) 689-3328, chiefkimmel@netscape.net; **Lorain CG (1957-1963)**, Lorain, OH, 8/7-8, Jon "Pete" Yeager, (419) 737-2819, eagle6@bright.net; **USCGC Mendota WPG/WHEC 69**, Wrightsville Beach, NC, 10/15-17, Jack Wilson, P.O. Box 822, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480; **USCGC Spencer WMEC 905**, Branson, MO, 9/23-27, Jack Shampine, 7398 Route 31, Cicero, NY 13039, jshampi@twcny.rr.com

JOINT

Assn of Ex-Prisoners (Korean War), Fort Mitchell, KY, 9/12-17, Elliott Sortillo, (219) 762-2405; **Battle of Leyte Gulf**, Fort Lauderdale, FL, Oct, Elias Janets, (954) 973-4241, c.keegan@att.net; **Guadalcanal Campaign Vets**, Kalamazoo, MI, 9/8-12, Gene Keller, (269) 324-3484, geneusmc@juno.com; **Nat'l Explosive Ord Disp Assn**, Colorado Springs, CO, 9/29-10/1, Bud Englehardt, (413) 569-5040, mossyfixture@supplyguys.net; **Roi-Namur Vets - 109th NCB, ACORN-21, ARGUS-21, GROPAC-3, CASU-20, ASD-825, Boat Pool 95, Island Fire Div, MAG-31, VFM-111, VFM-224, FPM-311, VFM-441, 4th Mar Div & Army 15th Def Bn (Marshall Islands, WWII)**, Bloomington, MN, 9/16-19, Harvey Nelson, (952) 831-8333, harveln@msn.com; **Tuskegee Airmen**, Omaha, NE, 8/3-8, Bob Rose, (402) 292-8912, rdjr@cox.net; **USS Bayfield APA 33**, New Orleans, 10/14-17, Marvin Perrett, (504) 885-7147, marvinperrett@netzero.net

USS Canberra, CA 70/CAG 2 (1943-1970), Louisville, KY, 10/13-17, Bryan Humphrey, (410) 208-4911, kandokangaroo@verizon.net; **USS Coos Bay AVP 25**, Chicago, Bill Hardy, (616) 738-0765, hardyb643@sbcglobal.net; **USS Princeton CV/CVA/CVS 37 & LPH 5 (Crew, Sqdns & Mar Dets)**, Norfolk, VA, 10/12-16, Bob Butler, (563) 259-8219, bbutler100@msn.com

MARINES

6th Mar Div 1st Prov Mar Bde, Nashville, TN, 9/26-10/3, Susan Parham, (310) 644-4591, separham@earthlink.net; **Able Co 1st Bn 7th Mar (Korea, 1950-1953)**, St. Petersburg, FL, Richard "Doc" Burkhardt, (727) 550-0354, richard@usaxray.com; **Anti-Tank Co 5th Mar**, Nashville, TN, 9/16-18, Chuck Batherson, (231) 839-5476, chuckandbarbat5@voyager.net; **Avn Logistics Mar (A/C Maint, Avionics, Avn Ord & Avn Supply Personnel)**, Havelock, NC, 10/7-10, Don Davis, (252) 444-1777, greyeg@ecr.rr.com; **Easy Co 2-5 1st Mar Div (Korea, 1950-1953)**, Savannah, GA, 9/15-19, Evans Kerrigan, (203) 655-3323, eekerrigan@aol.com; **Lima Co 3rd Bn 7th Mar Rgt 1st Mar Div (Vietnam Era)**, Seattle, 8/11-15, Al Keeton, alkeeton@charter.net; **MAG-11, 12 & 14**, Branson, MO, 10/13-16, James Jordan, (417) 535-4945

Mar Air Traffic Cont Assn, San Diego, 9/15-22, Joe Medico, P.O. Box 295, Magalia, CA, 95954, matcafndr@aol.com; **Mar Aircraft Grp 24 & All Sqdns**, Charleston, SC, 10/20-23, Russ Borman, (610) 867-0364, develruss@msn.com; **Mar Barracks (Naval Stat San Juan, PR)**, Palm Beach Gardens, FL, 9/28-30, Dick Hosmeyer, (304) 265-5501; **Mike 3/7 Vietnam (1965-1970)**, Seattle, 8/11-15, Dave "Doc" Bryson, (360) 856-0917, dave.bacsibryson@verizon.net; **USMC Motor Trans Assn**, Denver, 9/19-22, Hal Clapp, (910) 346-8797, usmcmta@vol.com; **USS Kitty Hawk CV 63 Mar Dets**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 10/7-10, Sid McLaughlin, (423) 246-5276, sandsmcl@tricon.net; **USS Kula Gulf CVE 108/AKV 8 (WWII, Korean War, Vietnam War)**, Knoxville, TN, 9/8-12, Andrew Warade, (727) 862-3058; **VMB-423 Seahorse Mar (WWII)**, Portage, IN, 9/15-19, Paul Peterson, (219) 926-1008, pp840@comcast.net; **VMF(N), VMF(AW), VMFA-531 Sqn "Gray Ghost,"** San Diego, 9/16-19, Roy Pearson, (858) 538-2362, f18puma@sbcglobal.net

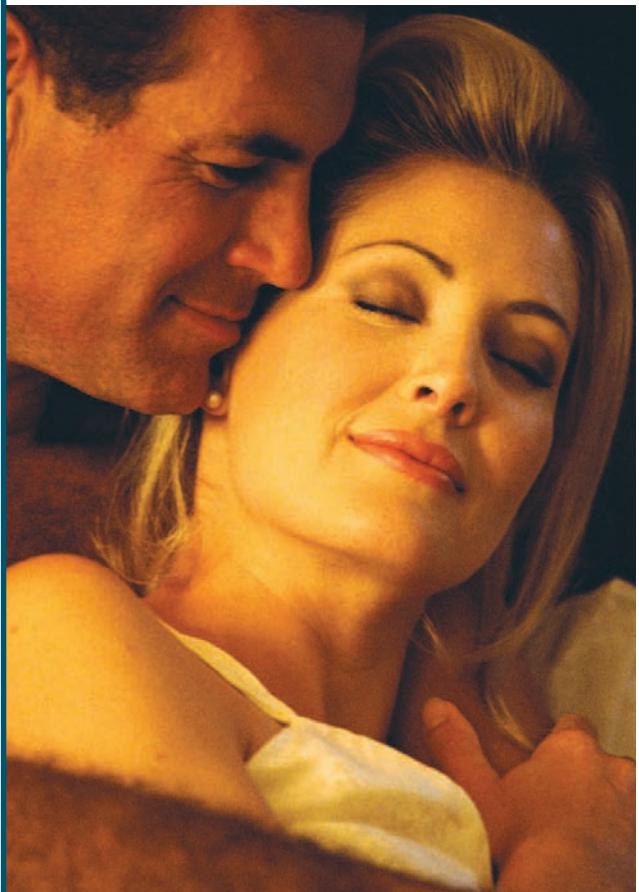
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1/2 Cort Div 22 — USS Gandy DE 764, USS Peterson DE 152, USS Poole DE 151, Tampa, FL, 9/22-26, Tom Lucas, (662) 489-4746, lukegandy764@aol.com; **2nd, 4th, 7th Naval Beach Bns**, Roanoke, VA, 9/4-9, Julius Shoulars, (757) 853-4061, jes7rubi@infonline.net; **11th Spec Seabees LOG 57-58 Base Co 32-36 (WWII)**, Myrtle Beach, SC, 9/19-22, Jim D-Amore, (609) 259-0631, james.damore@att.net; **60th Seabee Bn (WWII)**, St. Joseph, MO, 9/10-12, Kenneth Kafer, (816) 232-8224; **137th, 138th, 139th NCBS (WWII)**, Branson, MO, 9/15-17, Bill Sass, (636) 397-3373; **Air Task Grp 1**, Pensacola Beach, FL, 11/11-14, Dewey Ferrell, (423) 745-9309, ferrell@usit.net; **All Navy Net Tender/Net Layer**, Lewisville, TX, 10/7-9, Ed Pinson, (208) 362-2659, epinson@spro.net; **CASU-15 (Guadalcanal & E fate, WWII)**, San Diego, 10/5-8, Wendell Hubb, (573) 635-1579, wpmjh@ultraweb.net

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USS Raleigh. Frank M. Delpopolo seeks witnesses to verify he suffered a head injury requiring 10 stitches in June or July 1970. CID 1463

8th Ord Med Maint Co, Straubing, Germany
APO 46. George J. Bogold Jr. seeks witnesses to verify he was hospitalized in Regensburg Hospital for ulcers between April and June 1953. CID 1464

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1st Plt 1st Bn D Co 26th Inf 1st Inf Div (Quan Loi & Lai Khe, Vietnam, 1967-1968), Tammie Hicks Clark, acofbass64@hotmail.com

1st Prov Cbt Serv Grp Serv Cmd FMF PAC (Guam, 1948-1949), Bill Hunter, (813) 754-9827

2nd Bn 158th Avn Rgt 6th Cav Bde (Gulf War, 1990-1991), Lowell Knerr, (610) 462-4231, lowellknerr@lehighcounty.org

3rd Inf Rgt B Co "Old Guard" (Fort Myer, VA, 1955-1958), mickeygig@aol.com

4th Sig Const Bn (Korea, 1952-1953), Richard Dominetta, (310) 670-5930

5th Armd Div 15th Armd Inf Bn (Europe, WWII), John Markowski, (440) 357-1192, markowski.john@cleveland.va.gov

5th JASCO 5th Mar Div (Iwo Jima, 1944-1945), Bob Long, (641) 682-2329, bobnglee@mchsi.com

6th, 6114th Tow Target Sqdn (Johnson AB, Japan, 1950-1954), Pete Reilly, (516) 785-0759, reillypr7@aol.com

9th Army Div 47th Inf Rgt (Normandy, June-July 1944), Erik Olson, (517) 669-3696, olson_assoc@yahoo.com

10th Inf Div 10th MP Co (Wurzburg, Germany, 1955-1958), David Barker, (218)

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Martin R. Brouwer, Dept. of Oregon. Nat'l Marksmanship Cmte. Advisory Memb. 1959-1961, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1961-1962, Nat'l Law & Order Cmte. Memb. 1963-1965 and 1972-1973, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1968-1970 and Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Cmnsn. Memb. 1990-1993.

James P. Comiskey, Dept. of Pennsylvania. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Memb. 1978-1979, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1979-1980, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Memb. 1980-1981, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1990-1993, Dept. Cmdr. 1993-1994, Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmnsn. Rep. 1998-1999 and Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmnsn. Memb. 1998-2004.

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Nat'l Counter-Subversive Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1959-1961 and 1962-1969, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1962-1969, 1971-1972, 1979-1980 and 1983-1984, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1967-1969 and 1972-1981, and Dept. Cmdr. 1979-1980.

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John L. Jones, Dept. of Tennessee. Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1988-1990, Dept. Cmdr. 1989-1990, Nat'l Cemetery Cmte. Memb. 1989-1994, Nat'l Veterans Affairs & Rehab. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1990-1992, Alt. Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1992-1994, Nat'l Public Relations Liaison Memb. 1994-1996, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 1994-1996 and Nat'l Homeland Sec. Vice Chmn. 1996-2004.

John Le Rouge Martinez, Dept. of New Mexico. Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Memb. 1975-1979 and Nat'l Cmnsn. on Children & Youth Memb. Region 7 1981-1984.

Wilson T. Scott, Dept. of Oregon. Dept. Cmdr. 2000-2001.

Russell D. Stith, Dept. of Missouri. Nat'l Counter-Subversive Cmte. Memb. 1979-1984, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmnsn. Memb. 1990-1994, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmnsn. Chmn. 1995-1996, 1998-1999 and 2001-2002, and Nat'l Children & Youth Cmnsn. Vice Chmn. 1994-1995, 1997-1998 and 2000-2001.

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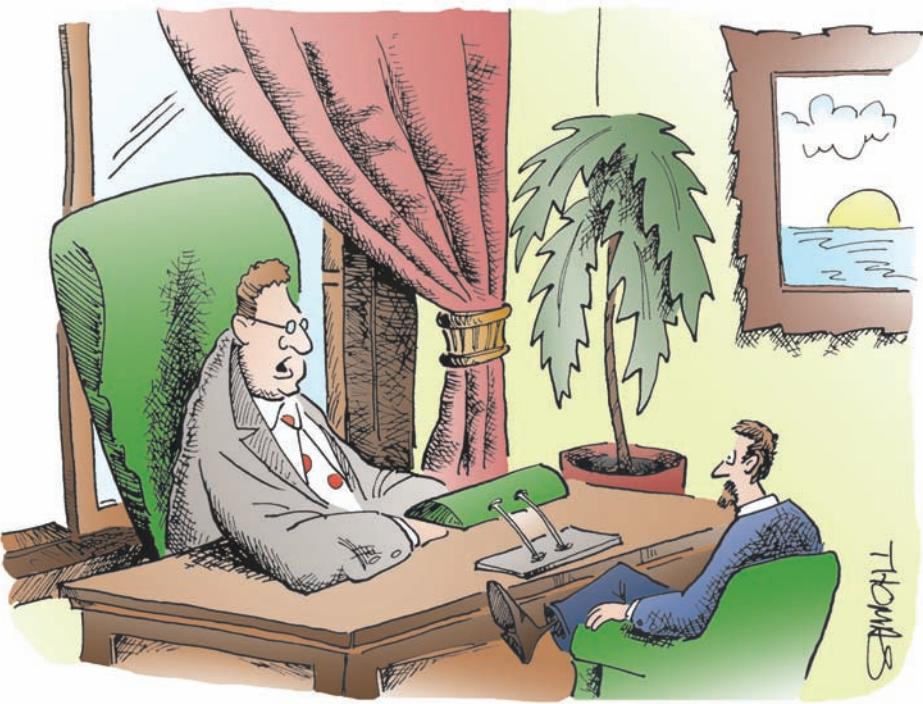
parting shots

“Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.”

— Robert A. Heinlein

BECAUSE I'M A MAN...

- ...When I lock my keys in the car, I will fiddle with a wire hanger and ignore suggestions that we call a road service until long after hypothermia has set in.
- ...When the car isn't running well, I will pop the hood and stare at the engine as if I know what I'm looking at. If another man shows up, one of us will say to the other, “I used to be able to fix these things, but now with all these computers and everything, I wouldn't know where to start.” We will then drink beer.
- ...I do not want to visit your mother, have your mother come visit us, talk to her when she calls or think about her any more than I must. Whatever you got her for Mother's Day is OK. I don't need to see it. And don't forget to pick up something for my mother, too.
- ...You don't have to ask if I liked the movie. Chances are, if you're crying at the end of it, I didn't.



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- ...I think what you're wearing is fine. I thought what you were wearing five minutes ago was fine, too. Either pair of shoes is fine. With the belt or without, it's fine. Your hair is fine. You look fine. Can we just go now?
- ...I must hold the remote control in my hand while I watch TV.



“Unfortunately, sir, your computer will be difficult to reboot with your fist through it.”

A MAN AND HIS WIFE

argued about who should brew the coffee each morning. “You should do it,” the wife said. “You get up first, and then we won't have to wait as long for the coffee.”

The husband shook his head. “You're in charge of cooking around here. You should do it, because that's your job. I can just wait for my coffee.”

“No, you should do it,” the wife said, glaring. “It says in the Bible that the man makes the coffee.”

“Show me,” the husband challenged.

The wife fetched the Bible, opened it to the New Testament and pointed to the top of several pages: “Hebrews.”



“The cleaning service wants to use our house as a training facility.”

TODDLER PROPERTY LAWS

- If I like it, it's mine.
- If it's in my hand, it's mine.
- If I can take it away from you, it's mine.
- If I had it a while ago, it's mine.
- If I'm doing or building something, all the pieces are mine.
- If it looks like mine, it's mine.
- If I saw it first, it's mine.
- If you're playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine.
- If it's broken, it's yours.



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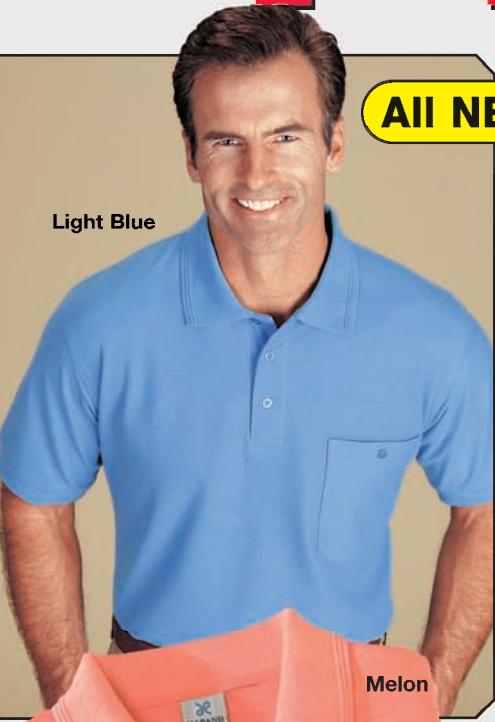
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